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Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Radio Views Baker Mission to Mideast

LD1804211491 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is arriving in Tel Aviv to begin his third tour of the Middle East in the space of one month. The question that arises here is: Is the U.S. minister carrying specific ideas on how to begin the peace process in the area, or is his current tour a completion of the two previous visits?

In his speech delivered at the end of the Gulf war, U.S. President George Bush defined a clear basis for peace in the area. He took the two UN Security Council resolutions, 242 and 338, as a basis, that is, the principle of land for peace. He affirmed that the security of states no longer is linked to geographical boundaries but to peace and cooperative relations.

Now that the U.S. secretary of state has begun his third tour, the attitudes of the sides to the conflict are still at variance. While the Arab side has been calling for an end to the building of settlements, Israel announces the building of settlements. When the Arab states call for the application of the principle of land for peace, Israel refuses to concede sovereignty of Arab territories it occupied in 1967. The same thing applies to the attitudes toward the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of their own independent state.

The U.S. secretary of state currently is undertaking shuttle diplomacy in an effort to start the peace process on the basis of the agreement to be reached by the sides to the conflict. Here, another question comes to the fore. What are the matters over which the intertwined sides in the conflict would reach agreement? An answer to this question leads immediately to the question about what Baker is carrying during his current tour.

We have shown the great variance in the attitudes of the sides concerned toward the points in the matter; which means that the efforts made at present center entirely on the procedural points; that is, to name the conference, the parties that will take part in it, the formation of the delegations, the points of protocol, the duration of the opening session, the quarter which would make the invitations, the level of the delegations, and other matters which do not affect the heart of the matter.

The nations of the Middle East have for many years aspired to establish lasting, comprehensive, and balanced peace. The absence of peace has always led to the expansion of the whirlpool of violence, counterviolence, and bloodshed.

Will the attainment of the desired peace be linked to efforts which are full of doubt and which do not seem to leave a tangible trace on the ground? One must earnestly look at the content which is not fraught with doubt or a waste of opportunities over marginal matters. The matter in question is a comprehensive, just, and firm peace based on the UN resolutions, which themselves contain the mechanism of implementation, application, solution, and settlement. This machanism is not hampered by any framework and form of movement if it is adopted and adhered to by all sides.

Palestinian Envoy on Conference, Inter-Arab Issues

PM1804132391 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Apr 91 p 2

[Interview with Palestinian Ambassador to Egypt Sa'id Kamal by Shukri Nasrallah in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Nasrallah] If a Middle East roundtable conference is held in Egypt or Geneva, would the Palestinians attend via the PLO?

[Kamal] That is premature, but what we know is that the PLO has been excluded from such a roundtable meeting. There is agreement to Palestinian participation in principle—but not the PLO.

[Nasrallah] If Palestinians from inside the occupied territory were invited to such a roundtable conference, what would the PLO's reaction be?

[Kamal] Let me tell you frankly that there is not a single Palestinian inside or outside Palestine who does not represent the PLO. Shamir knows that. The whole world knows that all the Palestinian people represent the PLO and vice versa, and that the revolution which began in 1968 created blind loyalty to the PLO by all the Palestinian people. At any rate, these things do not alter the essence of the matter, which is that there can be no peace in the Middle East without the PLO and the Palestinian people. We must not pause too long over the question of PLO representation or nonrepresentation as an organization. True, an invitation to the PLO would save a lot of effort, but Palestine will be represented by every Palestinian even if he comes from the United States.

[Nasrallah] It is clear that the regional conference on the Middle East, which is intended to be held in Cairo, will include U.S. President George Bush's points in its agenda. What is the PLO's reaction to Bush's five points?

[Kamal] Let us take them one by one and I will comment on them one by one.

[Nasrallah] The first point says that at such a meeting the United States would support Resolutions 242 and 338, which complements 242.

[Kamal] The PLO has issued a clear statement supporting Bush's points. The PLO has openly and publicly recognized these two resolutions.

[Nasrallah] The second point is land for peace. Is there a Palestinian approval of the spirit of that phrase in that it might imply a geographical change here or there, as Bassam Abu-Sharif said.

[Kamal] That is premature. What is important is to sit around the negotiating table without any preconditions and counter-preconditions. The geography as such is a military and technical matter which cannot be discussed prematurely. That point is approved in principle, but it cannot be tackled unilaterally outside the framework of the negotiating table.

[Nasrallah] The third point is about Israel's security. What is your answer to that?

[Kamal] Israel's security is mentioned in Resolutions 242 and 338 in one way or another. Naturally, when Bush talks about secure borders then the other part of the equation must also be addressed, namely secure borders for Palestine.

[Nasrallah] The fourth point is about the legitimate political rights of the Palestinians. Explain to us: How do you understand these rights?

[Kamal] What we understand is that with that kind of talk the United States wants to say that it is opposed to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state now. The Americans may have a right to say that, but we should have the right to stop the negotiations if we felt there was something wrong at the negotiating table, something that is harmful to our cause and our right to independence and sovereignty.

[Nasrallah] The fifth point is a condemnation of terrorism. What is your answer to that?

[Kamal] We announced our position on that point five years ago in the 1985 Cairo declaration in which the PLO condemned every military action that takes place outside the occupied territory. We still stand by our promise and our word.

[Nasrallah] If the roundtable conference on the Middle East made it a condition that the intifadah should be suspended to pave the way for a peaceful settlement, would the PLO accept that condition?

[Kamal] As soon as Israel announces its acceptance of the principle of withdrawal, the Palestinian people and their leadership inside must change the methods of the intifadah insofar as Israeli withdrawal is the aim of the intifadah. But if Israel persisted in its arrogance and obstinacy then the roundtable conference would be deadlocked, like all previous international attempts.

[Nasrallah] You have not answered my question. I wanted to know about the PLO's position. Can the PLO change the direction of the intifadah?

[Kamal] Everyone knows that the leadership inside is a branch of the leadership outside. Your question may have already been answered.

[Nasrallah] Does the leadership outside carry favor with the people inside the occupied territory?

[Kamal] We do because we are democratic. We listen to the intifadah leaders and exchange views and ideas with them, and we coordinate excellently—as you may or may not know. The evidence is there before your eyes. Who were the people who met with U.S. Secretary of State Baker? Did they not announce frankly that they belonged to the PLO and would do nothing against the PLO's will?

[Nasrallah] Was it the PLO which decided to reduce the number of people who met with Baker from 12 to six?

[Kamal] Yes.

[Nasrallah] Was that meant to be a message to Washington that the PLO coordinates with the people inside to that extent?

[Kamal] Yes, it was a clear Palestinian message to both Washington and Tel Aviv. We are one people with one leadership and one objective.

[Nasrallah] Let us move on to Arab-Palestinian relations. There is a general Arab feeling that the PLO interfered in Arab affairs and in so doing it harmed some Arabs, and that was seen by others as a violation of PLO principles.

[Kamal] Maybe the way in which the PLO expressed its positions was the cause of this complexity of views, but the fact remains that the official Palestinian delegation to the Cairo summit which followed the invasion of Kuwait was the party which drafted the official Arab summit statement. The delegation declared at that summit conference and in that statement that it was not taking anyone's side.

[Nasrallah] That is true, but the Arab blame came after the summit when the PLO held talks with and paid visits to Baghdad to the exclusion of others.

[Kamal] Let us not pour oil on the fire. Our aim is to calm, not to inflame emotions.

[Nasrallah] Let us talk about inter-Arab reconciliation. We have heard that Egypt is now making efforts for a reconciliation between you and the Gulf states. Is that true?

[Kamal] That is not so. As far as I know, that is not the case.

[Nasrallah] Has Egypt offered to mediate between you?

[Kamal] No, it has not.

[Nasrallah] Have you asked Egypt to mediate?

[Kamal] We have asked Cairo, by virtue of its position and its realistic and sound leadership, to play a part in Palestinian-Gulf relations and in inter-Arab relations.

[Nasrallah] Is it true that there is some kind of estrangement between you and Egypt, and why?

[Kamal] There may be some estrangement, but it is a temporary one dictated by temporary circumstances. What is certain, however, is that the Palestinian cause and people are Egypt's main preoccupation. On relations with Egypt, they are normal and the estrangement will pass. We know very well that the current efforts will lead to real understanding.

[Nasrallah] Do you have any information on the current Lebanese-Palestinian negotiations on the removal of Palestinian arms from Lebanon in implementation of al-Ta'if agreement?

[Kamal] I wish you had addressed the question to someone else, but since you have addressed it to me, you should know that the PLO has, without hesitation, decided to help the Lebanese Government establish its full sovereignty over all Lebanese territory. We will not permit any Lebanese-Palestinian fighting. What we want from Lebanon is the protection of our people there, and we want the blood bond between us and Lebanon to be an important factor in preserving Lebanon's security and Palestinian security.

Al-Husayni Advocates Cooperation With Israel

AU1804192491 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 1730 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Report by Hans Benedict]

[Text] Vienna Mayor Helmut Zilk used his visit to Jerusalem among other things to familiarize himself with the position of the Palestinians on the current political conflict. Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, whom Zilk is visiting, has accepted Zilk's invitation to visit Vienna.

Jerusalem's most prominent Palestinian leader, Faysal al-Husayni, who will meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker tomorrow, received Zilk for an informative talk. Husayni is regarded as an independent politician and as a candidate for the post of Palestinian prime minister. He stated:

[Begin al-Husayni recording in English with superimposed German translation] I would like to achieve a comprehensive peace with Israel. We must act jointly, free from external influence. Every Palestinian must literally make peace with every Israeli. This requires direct cooperation. The Israeli Government must sign on behalf of Israel, and the PLO on behalf of the Palestinians. If this cannot be achieved, the extremists will control Israel's policy, and on the other side the extremists will control Palestinian policy. Then both sides will fight against each other, but not to arrive at a solution but to kill each other. I believe in that case fundamentalism will assume power here, as has already happened in other places. [end recording]

The mayor of Bethlehem, Elias Freij, is known to be a close friend of Jordan's King Husayn. Freij is a multimillionaire and a candidate for the post of finance minister. He advocates the reunification of the West Bank and the Kingdom in a confederation.

[Begin Freij recording in English with superimposed German translation] Peace and stability in the region must be ensured. This can only be achieved through direct peace between Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians. [end recording]

Zilk concluded his talks with Teddy Kollek with a present for Jerusalem. Vienna will build a modern teacher training college in Jerusalem for Israeli and Arab teachers.

Abu-'Ayyash 'Does Not Reject' Conference

JN1204182991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Among reactions to the Middle East regional conference proposal, it is worth noting that Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, head of the journalists association in the occupied territory, who was released today after five months of administrative detention, does not reject the idea of a regional conference. In this context he answered a question by Widad 'Alam-al-Din as follows:

[Begin Abu-'Ayyash recording] We, the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territory, must learn to accept what might achieve our legitimate national rights. By proposing this idea, the United States may be intending to place the cart before the horse and to prevent the Palestinian people from demanding and urging the application of the same model in this region that was applied to Iraq. This could result in an outright rejection by the Palestinians.

Therefore, I say that we must accept this as a step toward the international conference provided there is a clear pledge by the United States and Israel that they will implement Resolutions 242 and 338 and all relevant consequences of this implementation, such as the withdrawal and other things. [end recording]

Explains Regional Talks Backing

PM1804105191 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Apr 91 pp 1, 4

[Telephone interview with Palestinian Journalists Association Chairman Radwan Abu-'Ayyash in occupied territory by Zaki Shihab in London; date not given]

[Text] [Shihab] Immediately after your release you expressed support for a regional conference to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict. On what basis did you make that declaration?

[Abu-'Ayyash] I support a regional conference as a step toward an international conference, provided Israel recognizes that Resolutions 242 and 338 must be applied to

the occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as they were applied to the Sinai, contrary to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's claim that these resolutions have been fulfilled.

All these matters, however, require in-depth study. I am certain the Palestinian people's leadership, namely the PLO, in the end will impose a position stemming from the justice of the Palestinian cause.

[Shihab] What about the reservations expressed by certain Palestinian figures such as Faysal al-Husayn regarding that idea?

[Abu-'Ayyash] They did not object to a conference. They said they were prepared to study the idea. I say that if such a step would lead to an international conference, then why not? As far as I am concerned, names and forms are not important. What is important is to know what they recognize and are prepared to implement, and what they do not recognize and try to avoid implementing, such as withdrawal, clear recognition of resolution 242, and self-determination for the Palestinian people. All these require clear and specific answers from the Israeli side.

[Shihab] While in prison, did you meet with any Israeli officials?

[Abu-'Ayyash] No at all. I was visited by Arab friends who are members of the Israeli Knesset.

[Shihab] What about the efforts made by the United States for your release?

[Abu-'Ayyash] Shamir had refused to release me. That was a clear message that the United States could not even fulfill minor matters related to the political process, let alone central issues. That is why I believe that the hard test is what the Americans are doing now. We expect the result soon.

[Shihab] What do you think of the idea of elections in the occupied territories?

[Abu-'Ayyash] Elections aimed at finding an alternative to the PLO would be a waste of time and an attempt to blur people's vision. Any side that tries to look for an alternative to the PLO would stray into many labyrinths and would in the end come face to face with the fact that that is an internal Palestinian issue. It would, therefore, be better to look for ways that would lead to peace.

[Shihab] Do you intend to embark on a foreign tour?

[Abu-'Ayyash] In the last 10 days in this current month I will visit Madrid and Rome, and contacts are underway to arrange visits to other capitals. That will be announced in due course.

'Arafat Sends Message to Palestinian Prisoners

LD1704193191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has said that the valiant epic of the steadfastness of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli detention centers is one of the most prominent factors which contributes to the outbreak, continuation, and escalation of the intifadah. This came in a special message addressed by brother Abu-'Ammar to Palestinian prisoners on Palestinian Prisoner's Day, which is being marked today by the Palestinian people.

The brother leader said that through their sacrifices, struggle and daring, our heroic prisoners succeeded in changing the detention centers, which were meant to become their graves, into places of the revolution and schools for the graduation of revolutionary cadres to support the national movement with a flowing thrust; cadres with revolutionary staunchness, experience, deep practice, and continuous awareness.

In his message, brother Abu-'Ammar said that the epic steadfastness of the Palestinian prisoners, in whose path devoted martyrs have fallen, and the stubborn confrontation [words indistinct] to the policy of repression and slow death, which has recorded the success of the prisoners over the bitter years of struggle by imposing their will, represent a bright and unique example of human steadfastness. The brother leader urged international institutions to be alert, as the occupation forces have lately stepped up their repressive policy against the prisoners, denying them the minimum human conditions in all spheres. He urged these institutions to shoulder the responsibilities imposed on them by international charters in this regard.

Brother Abu-'Ammar concluded his message by saying that even though Israeli goals have been expanded during the era of the intifadah to accommodate tens of thousands of our heroes, it is their steadfastness that is one of the pillars of the continuation and escalation of the intifadah, which will continue until our people break out of their great prison and regain their freedom and national independence.

PLO Representative Meets With Saudi Ambassador

LD1704191591 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee and the PLO's representative in Tunisia, met with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Tunisia yesterday evening [16 April]. The two sides reviewed developments in the occupied Palestinian territories, especially the blessed intifadah of our people under the specter of Israel's escalating organized terrorism and repression against them. They also reviewed various developments in the Arab and international arenas in light of the political consultations and moves which are currently taking place, and the need to regain and bolster Arab solidarity to serve the Arab nation's causes.

Egypt

Ghali on Baker Visit, Need for Israeli Withdrawal

NC1804132591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will arrive in Cairo from Jordan on 20 April for a two-day visit that is part of his third tour of the region. He will meet with President Husni Mubarak and hold talks with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on Middle East developments and the U.S. proposals to promote the peace efforts and the search for a just solution to the Palestinian issue.

Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Egypt supports this visit and the ongoing U.S. efforts to formulate new concepts to achieve a just settlement of the Palestinian issue within the framework of either an international or a regional conference.

Dr. Ghali added that it is necessary to continue the current moves and contacts among the countries concerned because we must exploit the interest now being shown by world public opinion in attaining a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue on the basis of UN resolutions, particularly UN Security Council Resolution 242 which calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Arab territories that were occupied in June 1967.

Dr. Ghali said that during the Gulf crisis, Egypt refused to link the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait with Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories but now that Kuwait has been liberated, Egypt is urging action to end the Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab territories.

In conclusion, Dr. Ghali affirmed that there can be no real peace in the Middle East without a settlement of the Palestinian issue.

AL-AHRAM Cites 'Optimism' Over Baker Tour

NC1904090091 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 19 Apr 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary titled "Baker's Tour and Israel's Responsibility," AL-AHRAM says: With the beginning of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's third tour in the Middle East, which is intended to invigorate the peace process, ripples of optimism can be felt in the region for the prospects of Baker's mission. This optimism is based on direct and indirect remarks made in Washington during the past few weeks, all reflecting the U.S. Administration's resolve to overcome all existing obstacles and to press the concerned parties to take firm steps toward the negotiating table with the understanding that peace means the need for all parties to undertake their mutual commitments in accordance with the principle of exchanging land for peace.

The newspaper says that observers believe that the current phase presents the United States with the best opportunity to persuade Israel to comply with the international community's desire to consolidate the principles of international legitimacy.

Economy Minister Returns From UK Meetings

NC1904040591 Cairo MENA in English 2044 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, April 18 (MENA)—Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr. Yusri Mustafa returned here this evening from Britain following a five-day visit during which he attended meetings of the governors of the European bank for reconstruction and development.

The minister of economy also met with a number of European ministers of economy to discuss cooperation between Egypt and their countries. The European bank for reconstruction and development is considered the first financial institution aimed at effecting economic rapprochement and link between West and East European countries, particularly those countries which began to depend on market economy and economic openness.

A number of heads of governments and ministers of economy, trade and finance attended the meetings of the European Bank. Egypt was invited to attend the bank's conference in view of its good and distinguished relations with most of the participant states.

Terms London Talks 'Positive'

NC1904073591 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 19 Apr 91

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM notes today that Dr. Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, described as positive the consultations he held on the sidelines of the meetings of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, held in London from 15 to 17 April.

Before he left London for Cairo, Dr. Mustafa said that the UK Government is inclined to cancel some of Egypt's debts to the United Kingdom, adding that UK officials have been cooperative on that issue.

Gulf Forces Commander on Regional Security Plan

NC1804131691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0653 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—Lieutenant General Salah Muhammad 'Atiyah al-Halabi, commander of the Egyptian forces in the Gulf, has said that now that the joint forces have completed their mission of defending Saudi Arabia and liberating Kuwait, their next task will

be to implement the regional security arrangements established in principle in the Damascus Declaration.

In an interview published in AL-JUMHURIYAH today, al-Halabi said the framework for regional security arrangements will be defined by the political leadership. This framework will specify which states will take part and the overall troop strength required, he said. Once the political decisions are finalized, he added, details about the composition of this force and strategic and military policies will be worked out.

Lt. Gen. al-Halabi said that the Egyptian forces are currently deployed in accordance with the instructions of the joint command in western Kuwait and are near the 'Ali al-Salim area, not far from the Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders. He added that Saudi and Syrian forces are deployed nearby.

Commenting on the post-liberation situation in Kuwait, al-Halabi said Kuwait is currently sitting on a tinderbox which may explode without warning in view of the presence of thousands of unexploded mines, bombs, and missiles. Hence, the allied forces, and not just the Egyptian forces, decided to participate in the first phase of the plan to remove these hazards from Kuwait. In this phase, the city of (?Kuwait) itself and the positions where the troops are deployed were cleared in record time and with the lowest possible losses. In the second phase, which is more extensive and more important, the entire theater of operations from Saudi territory to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border will be cleared. He remarked that the second phase, which has yet to start, requires greater efforts and may take a long time.

He added that in view of the large scale of the work involved, the Kuwaiti Government has announced an international tender, to which Egypt has contributed its national service apparatus.

Al-Halabi asserted that the Egyptian troops on Saudi and Kuwaiti territory are not playing an ordinary military role.

[Paris AFP in English at 1045 GMT on 18 April reports on another interview granted by Lt. Gen. al-Halabi to the United Arab Emirates daily AL-KHALIJ, in which he discusses the establishment of a regional security force as part of the postwar security arrangements and notes: "'The security force may not face specific hostilities like before as with Iraq, which, by accepting the (United Nations) Security Council (ceasefire) resolution, does not constitute a specific threat.'" "'But the presence of this force within the security framework is considered a deterrent against anyone who thinks of destabilising the region in the future.'" The report adds that al-Halabi said he believed joint Arab military exercises were necessary: "'It is time that we reach a concept for joint Arab manoeuvres and unify military notions and terminology,' he said. "'There is a big difference in military concepts between Egypt and the Gulf but there is an opportunity now for such cooperation.'"]

Paper Says Arab League Should Try Saddam Husayn

NC1904071291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2248 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper has said that the Arab League should try Saddam Husayn as a war criminal.

The paper added that although the Arab League has not tried an Arab leader so far, it can do so for the first time and set an Arab precedent. This would be a lesson for any future tyrant. The Arab League can find a list full of charges and crimes, any one of which would be sufficent to try the perpetrator and carry the most severe sentence.

In its editorial in Friday's edition, the paper points out that the EC resolution labeling the Iraqi president a war criminal expressed the feeling of millions of people and their desire that the international community punish this dictator.

The paper asks: Where is the Arab voice calling for Saddam's trial? It notes that the Arab nation has been one of the most prominent victims of Saddam Husayn's crimes.

The paper says that the Iraqi ruler's foolish acts and crimes have harmed the Arabs and given Islam the worst image. Therefore, the paper adds, the Arabs are more entitled to try Iraq's tyrant because they have been hurt the most by his action and crimes.

Libya

JANA Editor Criticizes UK Treatment of Kurds

LD1804220591 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Reports from Iran say the British Government imposed conditions on Iran to release Western hostages detained in Iran [as heard] in exchange for food and humanitarian assistance to enable Iran to receive Iraqi Kurdish refugees. JANA's international affairs editor has commented upon this and said:

Once more Britain reveals more of its uncivilized behavior, which trades and gambles with the sufferings of people and their tragedies. This is underdeveloped behavior that lets people suffer from hunger, cold, and thirst so the British Government can gain a political victory, which enables it to practice more dictatorship at the expense of British citizens.

The editor said: If the hostages are suffering from a human tragedy, will any civilized person accept that their suffering will be removed by making more Iraqi Kurdish victims wait for assistance, which will come only after the release of hostages?

The editor said humanitarian organizations, human rights organizations, and the whole civilized world

should condemn the behavior of the British Government, which is lacking in human civilization. The editor wondered by what logic linkage is established between humanitarian assistance to save the lives of thousands of Iraqi Kurdish refugees and the hostage issue.

The editor concluded his comment by saying that if this disgraceful behavior—which is devoid of human feelings and civilization—emanated from a Third World country, the Western media, governments, and humanitarian organizations would have condemned it; furthermore, they probably would have imposed severe sanctions.

Sudan

Third RCC Member Resignation Reported

EA1804210691 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Informed and reliable sources say that Brigadier Martin Malwal Arop, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member, submitted his resignation from the council at the same time as 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan and Faysal Abu-Salih submitted their resignations. The sources said that al-Bashir had dismissed the latter two but did not decide on the resignation of Brig. Martin Malwal Arop.

Tunisia

Foreign Minister Discusses Mideast Security

PM1804151591 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Apr 91 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Tunisian Foreign Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Meeting With Baker Dealt With the Palestinian Problem and Security and Stability Issues in Region"]

[Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—After his arrival from Syria, Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya emphasized that his meeting in Damascus with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was not planned beforehand. It was an opportunity to review bilateral relations between the two countries, as well as the current consultations between the United States and the various parties concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict on settling the Palestinian issue and bringing about peace in the Middle East.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Ben Yahya pointed out that U.S.-Soviet-European-Arab contacts are currently at a working stage, and for its part, Tunisia hopes that the new dynamism will produce positive results for the Arab world in general and the Palestinian issue in particular.

He added that these consultations at present revolve around several issues primarily concerning ways of resolving the Palestine issue, which is directly linked to security and stability in the Middle East and the Gulf, and also around the nature and shape of the framework through which the Middle East issues will be resolved: Will that framework be international, regional, or bilateral?

The Tunisian foreign minister noted that if the Middle East problems are left unsolved it is bound to expose the situation in the Gulf to a new setback, because security and stability in the Gulf are linked to Middle East issues and consequently to the situation prevailing there.

Asked whether his meeting with Baker helped to eliminate the lingering coolness in U.S.-Tunisian relations as a result of the Gulf crisis, the leader of Tunisian diplomacy said that Tunisia's position on the Gulf crisis was misunderstood by many states, both in the Gulf and in the West, especially the United States. In fact Tunisia did not even for one minute deviate from the principle of international legitimacy, namely the principle of the sovereignty of Kuwait and the legitimacy of the Kuwaiti Government.

Tunisia expressed that clearly and openly from 3 August, that is, only one day after the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, in a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry. It demanded that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait and not interfere in Kuwait's internal affairs. Tunisia was among the 14 Arab League states that voted for the resolutions that condemned the Iraqi invasion.

Tunisia was also among the states that adhered punctiliously to the Security Council resolutions on the the economic embargo against Iraq.

Habib Ben Yahya noted that Tunisia's nonparticipation in the forces allied against Iraq was also misunderstood by some people, although states like Sweden and the Scandinavian states did not participate either.

Ben Yahya pointed out that Tunisia set a condition for its participation in these forces and informed the United Nations of this condition. That condition was that these forces be placed under UN supervision (blue berets), and if that request had been met, Tunisia would have participated. It has in the past cooperated with the United Nations in Congo and Namibia.

Kuwait

Envoy on Amnesty International's Allegations

LD1904140491 London KUNA in Arabic 1240 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Geneva, 19 Apr (KUNA)—Dr. Salim Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwait's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, has criticized the latest Amnesty International report on the situation inside Kuwait. He asserted in an interview with the TRIBUNE DE GENEVE that the report is "based upon a few excesses committed by a few groups and ignores the general situation inside Kuwait." He added that what is taking place in Kuwait now is insignificant and it is deliberately being exaggerated by Yasir 'Arafat and his allies.

Concerning Amnesty's condemnation of human rights abuses in Kuwait, the Kuwaiti ambassador pointed out that following the liberation of any country from occupation, there are always some excesses and acts of revenge. It is, however, only a matter of time before the government regains full control over the situation.

Asked whether Amnesty International's delegation was tricked during its visit to Kuwait, Dr. Salim Jaber al-Ahmad said the delegation had only a short time to talk to a limited number of people. "Actually there are hundreds of journalists in Kuwait and if repression had really reached such a level they would have witnessed it," he added.

He went on to reiterate the Kuwaiti Government's commitment to giving all detainees a fair trial and providing them with a lawyer.

Concerning Kuwait's stance toward the Palestinian problem, the Kuwaiti ambassador said: "We still support the Palestinians, who have a just cause, but not Yasir 'Arafat, who has espoused a very bad policy. Rejecting 'Arafat does not mean rejecting the PLO. It is, however, clear that the PLO should replace its leader."

The Kuwaiti ambassador stated: "After all that Kuwait has done for Palestine and the Palestinians, it is difficult for our people to understand Yasir 'Arafat's alliance with Saddam Husayn."

As regards foreign manpower in Kuwait, he said that Kuwait welcomes foreigners from countries that supported Kuwait during its ordeal, like the Egyptians and the Bangladeshis.

Regarding the democratic process, Dr. Salim Jaber al-Ahmad stressed that democracy is not a new thing in Kuwait. There will be a return to the situation before 1986 with new developments, he declared. He pointed out that among these developments is the possibility that Kuwaiti women will be able to take part in elections.

Prime Minister on Foreign Forces, Palestinians

LD1804163991 London KUNA in Arabic 1534 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Washington, 18 Apr (KUNA)—His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, expressed in a press interview published here today the belief that the Kuwaiti people do not object if foreign forces remain in Kuwait to protect it from external aggression.

His Highness said in his reply to a question by a NEW YORK TIMES correspondent regarding his prediction concerning a permanent U.S. military presence in Kuwait: "I am sure that there will not be any great difficulty."

He said to the correspondent of the U.S. newspaper: "I am sure that you have contacts with many Kuwaitis, and I believe that they share the Amir of Kuwait's feelings regarding the need for some forces from friendly countries to stay in Kuwait."

In reply to a question on whether Kuwait is going to witness political changes in the future, the prime minister said: "I would like to say that all these are Kuwaiti internal matters," and added: "but I believe the future will bring new ideas and a new system, yes."

The prime minister vehemently denied biased rumors concerning ill-treatment of the Palestinians in Kuwait, and said: "I must stress that these Palestinians have been and will be in safety in Kuwait." He added: "I have no doubt you heard rumors that the Kuwaiti people started torturing the Palestinians and that some Palestinians were killed in the streets. All these are calumnies." He also said: "Some Palestinians denounced the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, sided with the Kuwaitis, and gave all sorts of assistance to the Kuwaiti resistance."

Kuwait, Iraq Informed of U.N. Border Committee

LD1804161991 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] The United Nations has informed Kuwait and the Iraqi regime that a five-member committee will be entrusted with demarcating the borders between them. A report distributed by the office of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said that the committee will include one Kuwaiti member, one Iraqi member, and three other members appointed by the U.N. secretary general.

KUNA quoted a well-informed diplomatic source as saying that the important thing is that there will not be any opportunity for negotiations about the borders. It added that the demarcation will take place in accordance with U.N. Resolution 687, which was adopted on 3 April 1991 and which asked both Kuwait and Iraq to respect the sanctity of the international borders agreed upon by

the two states in Baghdad in 1963. This UN resolution also calls on the secretary general to help the two states make arrangements to demarcate the borders between them in an effective manner.

The committee will, among other things, examine ten maps which were presented by the British Government to the office of the secretary general last month. These documents, which relate to the borders between Kuwait and Iraq, were prepared in 1932 at the request of the then amir of Kuwait and the Iraqi prime minister. It is worth mentioning that Kuwait has ruled out on several occasions any negotiations over the border issue with Iraq, whose government has constantly refused to recognize the agreement signed between the two countries on this matter in 1969.

UN Security Council Resolution 687, which defined the conditions for a final cease-fire in the Gulf, was adopted to decide the issue of the Kuwait-Iraq borders in the framework of the action aimed at bringing about peace in the region after the liberation of Kuwait.

Amir Sends Message to UN Secretary General

LD1804192991 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] His Highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah has sent a message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. His highness urged Perez de Cuellar to act to ensure the release of the remaining prisoners of war and Kuwaiti civilians still in Iraqi jails.

In his message, conveyed yesterday by Kuwait's permanent delegate to the UN Mr. Muhammad Abu al-Hasan, the amir urged the UN secretary general to use his influence to ensure the return of those prisoners and detainees to their country and families as soon as possible.

In his message, the amir also stated that the Iraqi regime is proscratinating in the release operations, and he asked that all possible pressure be exerted to force the Iraqi authorities to respond to the Kuwaiti demands.

Envoy to Brazil on PLO's Support of Iraq

LD1804141991 London KUNA in Arabic 1138 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Brasilia, 18 April—The Kuwaiti Ambassador to Brazil Faysal Rashid al-Ghays has denounced the attitude of the PLO leadership toward the crisis of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. He said, however, that the Palestine question has been and continues to be one of the priorities of the foreign policies of most of the Arab countries, including Kuwait.

The ambassador was speaking in a statement to the Brazilian newspaper, O GLOBO, published in its latest issue. He said that this intricate question has become even more intricate in recent months due to the tragic stand taken by the PLO leadership in supporting the Iraqi invasion, which also involved the dispatch of [Palestinian] armed men to Kuwait.

He expressed his belief that the PLO leadership's support for the Iraqi occupation was based on the "use of Kuwait as a hostage" for the establishment of the Palestinian state. They called on the United Nations not to intervene in the conflict claiming that Arab issues must be solved by the Arabs themselves, and they defended the idea of a negotiated settlement which would bring their interests to the foreground while denouncing the waging of war for the liberation of Kuwait from the grip of the treacherous Iraqi occupation.

Ambassador al-Ghays added: "After its defeat, the PLO stopped considering Kuwait as a hostage and started to look upon it as an example to be followed." He pointed out that the PLO "is now demanding the application of the same measures that were used in the liberation of Kuwait to the question of the establishment of the Palestinian state, i.e. the same measures it had previously condemned." "The argument the PLO uses to justify its attitude," Ambassador al-Ghays said, "was that the Kuwaitis have suffered from foreign occupation for a few months only—as though the PLO was sad because the Kuwaitis did not suffer longer—while the Palestinians have suffered for several years."

He stressed: "This shows that the PLO leaders do not condemn the invasion on the basis of principle but on the basis of its length." He pointed out that in this way, the PLO might view the occupation of the land of Palestine as a crime but it justifies the invasion of Kuwait as a strategic necessity.

Ambassador al-Ghays added: "By being a partner in the Iraqi invasion, the PLO has no right to use Kuwait to bring pressure to bear on the United States to persuade it to use the same persistence in respect of Palestine due to the fact that the PLO condemned American policy throughout the period of the occupation."

He pointed out that if the PLO has accused the United States of defending Kuwait for the sake of oil only, then either it has changed its opinion about the motives of American foreign policy or oil has begun to flow in Palestine. He said the PLO should look upon Kuwait as an example to be followed in formulating foreign policies. Kuwait has won world sympathy for its cause while the PLO has lost the sympathy it used to enjoy in the past.

The Kuwaiti ambassador added that by its attitude toward the Kuwait occupation issue, the PLO leadership has become "the major obstacle in the way of the establishment of a Palestinian state representing the Palestinian people." He added that the PLO's insistence "on imposing itself as the sole representative of the

Palestine people, despite the distortions of its international image, proves that its leaders prefer the protection of their seats to the retrieval of their homeland."

Ambassador al-Ghays added that the biggest contribution "the PLO can make to the Middle East peace process is to disappear from the arena." The Kuwaiti ambassador to Brazil added: "All the parties concerned are now making concessions for the sake of peace in the region. But by its policy of double standards, the PLO constitutes one of the biggest problems in the present time."

Saudi Arabia

Paper Hails Results of Baker Trip

PM1804135591 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic
13 Apr 91 p 3

[Editorial: "Next Step After Baker's Tour"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has concluded his tour of the region and moved on to complete the European segment of his trip. According to the statements issued and the stances adopted during the U.S. secretary's tour—his second in a month—some issues have emerged. They deserve attention, and the world should consider them in the period ahead if it wants peace efforts to be a success and to achieve their aim of realizing stability and securing a just and lasting solution in this explosive region of the world.

The first of these issues is the fact that there are indications which have prompted observers to be optimistic about reaching an acceptable decision on the mechanism of a solution and the way to work toward it via a new formula which is close to the international peace conference idea but that might adhere to all its conditions, at least initially.

The essential reservation in this regard is that that step alone is not sufficient to arouse further optimism. The fundamental issue has not been and will not be the mechanism of the solution but, rather, the essence of the conflict. The success of the mechanism or the method of securing a solution depends not only on its forms and political and legal adaptation, but also on its usefulness in moving closer to solutions for these fundamental issues and in securing just, stable settlements for them—settlements that would realize all parties' legitimate demands.

As for the second issue which should produce a tangible political result, it is the Arab position. The Arab states have once again proved their commitment to the fixed principle of searching for a just peace and have in practice emphasized their seriousness in searching for that peace, making it a strategic option for the future of this region. In Cairo Baker met with the Egyptian president and Egyptian officials, then with Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal. Then he met in Damascus with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian officials. At these three stations Baker must have ascertained the Arab option for a just peace and ascertained at the same time Arab adherence to legitimate Arab rights based on international resolutions.

In contrast, the Israeli position did not inspire much optimism, nor did it support the optimism that prevailed in the world. Following Baker's positive statements in occupied Palestine, the Zionist enemy leaders competed to provide their false, incomplete, and distorted interpretations of the peace ideas, the regional conference ideas, and the means to secure a settlement. They voided it of its true content and displayed a great deal of the trickery and procrastination exercised by the Zionist leadership for the sake of wasting peace opportunities and destroying any progress that may be achieved in that regard.

The world is still suspicious of Israeli intentions, because they stille have not been translated into practical positions and confirmed options for peace. If the Israeli leadership really wants to prove its credibility and desire for peace—even for one time—it has in front of it numerous ways in which it can do that: It must stop the trickery and the false interpretations of international resolutions. And it must understand the realities of the new world which will not allow the continuation of occupation, annexation by force, stockpiling of arms, and the suppression of the peoples' rights.

The world has chosen the path of peace as the future for all mankind, and there is a good opportunity for peace in the Middle East. The U.S. efforts have proved that President Bush's administration seeks to move forward toward peace, whatever the obstacles. Undoubtedly, after James Baker's two tours all the realities of the situation are now clear in the minds of the Americans—and the Europeans, too. Thus the next step should be based on understanding all these realities and eliminating the main obstacles to peace, including the Israeli leadership's erroneous understanding of that peace and the means of realizing it.

"Text" of UN-Iraq Refugee Relief Agreement

[illegible] Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1810 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] At the Foreign Ministry today, an agreement of understanding was signed between Iraq and the United Nations. The agreement, signed for Iraq by Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn and for the United Nations by Sadruddin Agha Khan, the UN secretary general's representative, provides for coordinating relief work and humanitarian aid to Iraq and coordinating relief aid extended by international agencies between the competent Iraqi authorities and UN representatives. Following is the text of the memo of understanding:

This memo sums up the outcome of the talks held between [word indistinct] delegation in the Republic of Iraq within the framework of its request to the UN secretary general concerning the plight of Iraqis who have been affected by the recent events and concerning UN Security Council Resolution 688 of 5 April 1991, which the Government of the Republic of Iraq had rejected:

A—The period from 13 to 15 April 1991 [word indistinct] the UN mission [word instinct] Eric Suy, the personal representative of the UN chief.

B—The period from 16 to 18 April 1991 [word indistinct] the UN [word indistinct] mission headed by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the executive commissioner of the UN secretary general for the UN humanitarian program for Iraq [word indistinct] and the border areas, and the southern [words indistinct]. The Iraqi Government has welcomed these two missions:

First, the two sides are aware of the pressing need and importance of the appropriate measures, including the extension of humanitarian aid to ease the suffering of affected Iraqi civilians.

Second, the Government of the Republic of Iraq welcomes UN efforts to encourage the voluntary return of displaced Iraqis to their domiciles and take humanitarian measures to avert further waves of Iraqi refugees and persons. The Iraqi Government pledges to extend every cooperation and backing to the UN and its specialized agencies and pertinent programs.

Third, the two parties are in agreement that the measures to be taken in the interest of the displaced persons must be fundamentally based on their personal safety and the provision of assistance and humanitarian relief to ensure their repatriation and their return to normal life in their original domiciles.

Fourth, toward that end, the Government of the Republic of Iraq agrees to cooperate with the UN, with the proviso that it maintain a humanitarian presence in Iraq wherever such a presence is required and that it facilitate this by taking all necessary measures. This will be secured through the establishment of UN humanitarian centers in agreement and in cooperation with the Iraqi Government.

Fifth, [words indistinct] by civil UN officials, in addition to [words indistinct] selected cadres from government organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Iraq's Red Crescent will be glad to play a part in implementing the aid and humanitarian relief programs.

Sixth, the UN humanitarian centers will facilitate and secure humanitarian assistance and relief to the needy, including, among other things, food, medical care, agricultural rehabilitation, and whatever humanitarian measures and [word indistinct] relief aimed at hastening a return to normal life so as not to be in conflict with the provisions of this agreement. Also, the centers will oversee the general situation in this regard by counseling the Iraqi Government authorities [words indistinct].

Seventh, relay and monitoring stations shall be set up all along the way in an urgent manner (in addition to means of logistical support and in cooperation with the Iraqi authorities) to provide food, shelter, and basic medical care that civilians, especially women, children, the elderly, and the sick, might need on their way to their homes. The UN cadres will escort these groups whenever this is deemed necessary.

Eighth, the UN shall adopt urgent measures in cooperation with the Iraqi Government to assign employees at an early date and to provide assistance and relief for all specified centers. Centers near the Iraqi border with neighboring countries shall be given priority. In order to do this, the UN could, in cooperation and agreement with the Iraqi Government, [words indistinct] in addition to transportation by land, of this humanitarian mission and relief [word indistinct] from and through neighboring countries, under the UN supervision or the supervision of any other humanitarian body. The Government of the Republic of Iraq shall adopt the necessary measures so as to render such aid expeditiously and effectively.

Ninth, the UN shall provide humanitarian aid and relief at the same time to refugees and returnees and all the citizens who are included in the relief program to promote the speedy return to a normal life.

Tenth, the basic framework of UN action [words indistinct] the task of coordination and effective implementation, in addition to supervision of the humanitarian aid and relief. The forthcoming periods shall include more details.

Eleventh, it has been agreed that the humanitarian aid is neutral and that all needy civilians, wherever they are, have the right to (?obtain this aid.)

Twelfth, all pertinent Iraqi officials, including the military, shall be allowed to [words indistinct] relief supplies [words indistinct].

Thirteenth, from now on the Iraqi Government shall, with the participation of the UN, establish a relief body for [words indistinct] and supervision in order to facilitate reaching all civilians who are included under the relief program as soon as possible.

Fourteenth, a coordinator has been appointed in Baghdad at the level of the assistant UN secretary general in order to [words indistinct] coordinate the implementation of the humanitarian relief program. He will be constantly in touch with senior government officials who are responsible for relief activity in the country, so as to discuss and (?develop) policies and operations that might [word indistinct] during the implementation of the program.

Fifteenth, the Government of Iraq shall cooperate to provide the UN cadres [word indistinct] facilities to reach parts of the country that are concerned with relief activity by air or land routes when this is deemed necessary so as to facilitate the implementation and supervision of the program.

Sixteenth, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and other relief agencies will be encouraged to implement the program in close cooperation with the UN and under the conditions for participation, which are spelled out clearly and agreed upon with the Iraqi Government.

Seventeenth, the Iraqi Government shall help in the speedy establishment of secondary [word indistinct] of the UN which help UN [word indistinct] centers and other programs in the cities that will be chosen to (?facilitate) the relief program whenever this is deemed necessary, in order to encourage the voluntary return [of refugees], and extend necessary [word indistinct] for citizens [word indistinct] inside and outside, in addition to local residents who are covered under the relief program.

Eighteenth, a UN communications network will be established [words indistinct] relief activity and [words indistinct]. The network will cover the requirements of communications inside Baghdad and other cities covered under the relief program and inside and outside the country wherever this is appropriate.

Nineteenth, in order to [words indistinct] and mobilize resources for the relief program, the Iraqi Government will provide cash contributions in the local currency to help cover the expenses of operations inside the country, while discussions will continue on specifying a special exchange rate for the relief operations carried out by agencies and organizations that take part in the program.

Twentieth, the implementation of the abovementioned principles shall not prejudice the sovereignty of the Republic of Iraq, its territorial integrity, and political independence, and it shall not interfere in its internal affairs.

Twenty-first, the abovementioned principles shall be implemented (?during) a period that (?expires) on 31 December 1991. The principles and operational methods shall be reviewed two weeks before the expiration of this period so as to evaluate other requirements [words indistinct].

Written in Baghdad on 3 Shawwal, 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 18 April 1991.
[Signed] For the Republic of Iraq, Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn.

Sadruddin Aga Khan, the executive envoy of the Secretary General of the UN for the UN Humanitarian Program for Iraq and Kuwait and Iraqi-Iranian and Iraqi-Turkish Border Areas.

UN's Sadruddin Aga Khan, Eric Suy Depart 19 Apr

JN1904140491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1349 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, executive commissioner for the UN secretary general for the UN humanitarian program for Iraq and Kuwait and the border areas with Iran and Turkey, has left Baghdad after a visit of several days. [passage omitted]

Eric Suy, the UN secretary general's personal representative has also left Baghdad after a visit of several days, during which he talked to Iraqi officials about coordinating relief work and international assistance for Iraq.

Pardon Granted to Kurds Extended for One Week

JN1804105891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1034 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA)—The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has extended for one week, starting Friday, the validity of its decision granting a general pardon to Iraqi Kurds. The new decision says:

Due to difficult communications and obstacles resulting from the aggression in the country's northern area, in order to allow the sons of our Kurdish people to return to their residential areas, and based on paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided as follows:

1. The period for the pardon provided for in RCC Decision No. 104 of 11 April shall be extended for another week starting Friday 19 April for people within Iraq and starting Friday 26 April for people abroad.

2. This decision shall be published in the official gazette, and concerned quarters shall implement it.

It is worth mentioning that the RCC issued a decision on 5 April pardoning Iraqi Kurds in the autonomous region. The decision pardoned those who committed any acts

punishable by law except for the crimes of premeditated murder, violation of honor, and theft committed in circumstances of riots and treason.

Kurdish Party Reports 'Temporary' Cease-Fire

NC1804181291 Paris AFP in English 1741 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus, April 18 (AFP)—The Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK] said Thursday that the Iraqi Government and Kurdish rebels had agreed two days ago to observe a temporary ceasefire.

A spokesman for Mas'ud Barzani's DPK told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here that a ceasefire was agreed between Kurdish fighters and Baghdad to allow leaders of the Kurdistan Front to study a proposal from the Iraqi regime "concerning the granting of autonomy to the Kurds."

The Kurdistan Front is an umbrella group bringing together the major Kurdish parties.

Baghdad: Kurds Spurn 'Yoke' of International Aid

JN1804190091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1822 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has stated that large numbers of Kurdish citizens continue to leave the areas across the border with Iran and Turkey which they were forced to head for out of fear of revenge by rebel gangs.

He added: The number of those returning across the border to the northern cities and villages has increased to 106,396 over the past six days. The minister went on to say: Civil and military authorities in the northern area continue to provide services to the citizens, who are returning to their places of residence in northern cities and villages.

The returnees made statements saying that large numbers of citizens desire to return home. They added that obstacles and [word indistinct] placed in their way by the rebels are preventing refugees from returning. They went on to say: The rebels are preventing some refugees from crossing the borders. The rebels stole their personal effects and property. Moreover, the rebels seized their vehicles. Despite this, the returnees prefer to return to their places of residence rather than remain displaced and under the yoke of the so-called protection provided by foreign relief agencies, the returnees concluded.

U.S.-Saudi Air Activity Over Country Alleged

JN1804185291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1823 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Iraq's permanent UN representative today sent a memorandum to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar on U.S. flights in Iraqi airspace. The INA correspondent in New York said the memo indicated that the overall U.S.-Saudi air activity for 15-16 April 1991 totaled 138 sorties that were carried out by 68 formations at an altitude of 5-8 km at a speed of 750 km per hour.

The memo pointed out that the aircraft were identified as F-15's and F-14's, and that they overflew Baghdad, Tikrit, Ba'qubah, al- Kut, Karbala', al-Najaf, and al-Ramadi with the aim of observation and harassment.

University, College Classes To Resume 20 Apr

JN1904134991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1156 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA)—Classes at universities, colleges, and technical schools in Baghdad and the governorates are to resume tomorrow, Saturday.

INA has learned that toward that end, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research has taken all the necessary measures.

Saturday, 6 July 1991 is the date set for the commencement of final examinations for those institutions following the annual system, and Saturday, 24 August will be the date for those following the semester system.

Make-up exams are set to start on 28 September, and summer training at institutes attached to the Technical Schools Authority and at colleges included in the summer training program starts 20 July and ends 19 September.

It is to be recalled that the mid-term exams for the current scholastic year were canceled. The grades of the seasonal and mid-term tests which were to have been held from 17 January to 1 February 1990 will be determined by adding the grades accumulated over the school year to those received at the final examinations.

Regime Forces Accused of Using Chemical Weapons

NC1804152191 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1426 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] At the same time the Saddamist regime claims it is offering an amnesty to the sons of our Kurdish people, the Saddamist forces' aircraft have bombed areas around al-Sulayminah with chemical weapons. A number of innocent civilians died in the attack.

Resistance operations by Kurdish revolutionaries are continuing against Saddam's mercenaries in that area. The revolutionaries have regained several areas in al-Sulayminah Governate from the hands of the scorned regime's forces.

Attacks on Army Reported in Al-Basrah Area

NC1804163491 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1426 GMT 91

[Text] Our heroic revolutionaries have succeeded in infiltrating the administrative areas of the enemy forces. A group of revolutionaries succeeded in blowing up

equipment and a number of ammunition depots which are used to supply pro-regime military units in al-Basrah suburbs.

Meanwhile, some groups of Saddam's forces attempted to advance on positions held by our revolutionaries in the al-Basrah area. Our heroes confronted the enemy and forced them to flee in panic after inflicting severe losses on them. Greetings to the vigilant eyes who watch the enemies' movements and turn their plots against them. In continuing our heroic revolutionaries' valiant operations against Saddam's forces and protectors, a heroic group of revolutionaries have launched a lightning attack on the positions of the scorned regime's forces in al-Qurnah area. They destroyed a tank belonging to Saddam's forces and killed many of the enemy. The others fled, leaving their positions to the heroic revolutionaries.

Bayji Plant Operating at Two-Thirds Capacity

JN1804143691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA)—The efforts of 500 Iraqi engineers and technicians have culminated in the resumed operation of four units of Bayji power-generating plant. The four units, whose overall capacity totals 880 megawatts, meet the needs of Baghdad, al-Ta'mim, al-Anbar, and Salah-al-Din Governorates.

The INA correspondent in Salah-al-Din cited the head of the plant as saying that technicians are now making relentless efforts to repair the other two units so that the plant will function at full capacity—which totals 1,320 megawatts—to satisfy the needs of all Iraqi governorates.

Bayji thermal [al-harariyah] plant, one of the largest in the Middle East, operates with six energy units, each of which produces 220 megawatts. It was heavily damaged as a result of the brutal U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic air bombardment.

U.S., Allied 'Conspiracy' To Isolate Country

JN1804110991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1023 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has accused the United States, its allies, and the Zionist forces of plotting a new conspiracy whose objective is to isolate Iraq and prevent it from developing.

The newspaper, which expresses the viewpoint of the Defense Ministry, said in its editorial today that this conspiracy is causing deliberate harm to Iraq in the form of incidents committed and supervised by the enemies themselves.

The newspaper drew attention to the fact that Western media mobilized by the Zionist circles deliberately blew up the events set off by the sabotage cliques from beyond the borders. They then tried to appear concerned and worried about those whom they pushed to incite trouble. At the same time they used the events in the north as a new way to achieve their base goals.

AL-QADISIYAH condemned the aggressive stand taken by the U.S. Administration and its allies against Iraq's serious and practical steps to enable the Kurdish citizens to return to their cities and homes and to enjoy security and stability once again. Those who do not support the authorities and the principles of humanity attempted to stir up these citizens.

It said that the forces conspiring against Iraq felt that their final round had failed. They also lost their wager on this game since Iraq declared a pardon giving the opportunity to all Kurdish citizens to return and practice their role in reconstruction without fear or hesitation.

It expressed confidence that after Iraq had thwarted all these schemes, it would be capable of resisting all the other chapters of the conspiracy and resuming construction work and creative sacrifice to compensate for the damage it suffered in the way of losses and destruction as a result of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression and the blind turmoil.

Deserter Tells of Continuing 'Turmoil,' Executions

LD1804181991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Turmoil continues to engulf the cities of Karbala', al- Najaf, al-'Amarah, Maymarah, al-Samawah, and the Province of al- Sulaymaniyah.

According to an IRNA report from Ahvaz, NCO First Class Rahim Muhammad from the Iraqi 44th division, who took refuge in Iran this afternoon, gave this information and added that in armed encounters in the province of al-Sulaymaniah alone hundreds of civilians were killed by the Ba'thist forces.

The same Iraqi refugee said that he was a witness to the execution of 30 Iraqi protestors by Ba'thists in the city of al- Kahla. He added that scores of troops from the Iraqi 44th division have deserted in recent days.

Levi Comments After Meeting Baker

TA1904085591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpt] Good day from the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. The meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Baker and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has already started. Baker met earlier with Foreign Minister David Levi for a 90-minute private meeting, with only an interpreter present. Upon leaving their meeting, both Baker and Levi were extremely reticent with the details. Here are Foreign Minister Levi's remarks:

[Begin Levi recording] We held a meeting; we also received impressions and exchanged thoughts. We will continue to discuss these issues. Clearly, the hour is late, because there is still another meeting to be held with the prime minister. We will continue to work out the issues in a spirit of friendship and mutual determination to further the process. [end recording]

That was Foreign Minister Levi. There were no reports of concluded agreements or news. Secretary of State Baker expressed similar remarks at the end of the meeting. [passage omitted]

Pazner: No Agreement Yet in Baker, Shamir Talk

TA1904123491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1153 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] The meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has just ended. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports from the Prime Minister's Office:

[Gutman] Good afternoon from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. The meeting between Secretary of State Baker and Prime Minister Shamir lasted over three hours, most of it held tete-a-tete. Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, is here to sum up the meeting. What can you tell us about it?

[Pazner] The meeting lasted almost four hours. The first part, about one and a half hours, was held tete-a-tete. Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein and Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, joined the session on our side, while Ambassador Brown and Mr. Ross joined it on the U.S. side. At that point, the talk lasted another two and a half hours.

[Gutman] Is it true that the talks were tougher than usual?

[Pazner] Of course, we will not describe the talks as being tough. They were very thorough, in a joint bid by Israel and the United States to make progress on the peace process. The talks were held in the same spirit of friendship that characterizes relations between our countries.

[Gutman] Were any agreements made?

[Pazner] The U.S. secretary of state raised several ideas, which are a consequence of his recent talks in various countries and with various elements involved in the peace process. The ideas raised by the secretary of state call for consultations and deliberations. We have no agreements yet, and the only thing that can be said at the moment is that the talks will continue.

[Gutman] Even today?

[Pazner] We do not have the details yet. It is almost 1500, and the Sabbath is approaching. I am not sure when the talks will be held. In any event, it is clear that further consultations and talks will be necessary.

[Gutman] These were the initial details from the lengthy talk between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Secretary of State James Baker, which lasted four hours. As could also be inferred from the tone of Pazner's remarks, one can say with a certain measure of certainty that the talks were anything but easy. The rest of the secretary of state's agenda in Israel is still unclear. Upon emerging from the Foreign Ministry, Baker said he may hold another meeting today with Foreign Minister Levi, but as far as is known at the moment, such a meeting will not be held. Also, it is not clear whether the secretary of state's request to hold a joint meeting with the prime minister and the foreign minister will materialize; nothing has yet been set. As we heard, the secretary of state raised some ideas but no agreements have been made. At the moment, tough talks are being held in Jerusalem.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1205 GMT on 19 April carries another live interview with Avi Pazner by political correspondent Arye Golan. Asked whether the expressions on the faces of people attest to the nature of the talks, Pazner says: "One should not try to guess the nature of the talks based on the facial expressions of anybody. Somebody may be in a bad mood because his feet are hurting him; this is not how the nature of the talks should be judged. I would under no circumstances describe them as tough talks. These were very thorough talks, of course. We are now touching upon all the serious issues, and it is only natural that such issues should call for seriousness and coolheadedness. I would definitely describe them as friendly talks, even if the issues being discussed are very serious and complex."

[To the question of which issues were discussed, Pazner replies: "All the issues pertaining to the peace process were discussed. Seeing that we are in the midst of the talks, I cannot go into detail."

[Asked whether any progress had been made toward convening a regional encounter, Pazner says: "The secretary today raised several ideas which he had heard in the past eight to 10 days. These ideas call for debate and consultation, and I think it is too early and impossible to reach any conclusions now. We still have to talk about them."

[To the question of whether the United States and Baker have reneged on some of the agreements and understandings reached with Israel in the previous rounds of talks, Pazner says: "I will not go into any details about the issues

discussed today. We are in the midst of these talks. Consultations are being held this very moment. When the talks end, I will be able to go into more details."]

Levi Welcomes Ghali Remarks on Peace Conference

TA1804175991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister David Levi says that if the United States sticks to its agreements with Israel, the peace process will continue. The foreign minister also welcomed what appears to be Egypt's readiness to go to a regional peace conference. Levi was talking to reporter David Essing at the annual Independence Day reception for the diplomatic corps at the residence of President Hayim Herzog in Jerusalem.

[Begin recording] [Essing] Ambassadors, diplomats, and military attaches called on President Herzog to convey their best wishes. Foreign Minister David Levi was also on hand to greet the well wishers before leaving to receive Secretary Baker at Ben-Gurion Airport. The foreign minister said he hopes Baker is bringing good news from the Arabs.

Levi welcomed comments by Egypt's Minister of State Butrus Ghali that Cairo is now ready to go to a regional conference. Foreign Minister Levi says there is a good chance for that regional meeting, but it is not certain yet. As Levi put it, the main thing is that the peace process does not get bogged down, and he concluded: If our agreements with the United States remain solid, the peace process will continue.

Egypt's Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni recalls that the Geneva conference following the Yom Kippur War was also chaired by the United States and the Soviet Union.

[Basyuni] So, I do believe that to call the conference regional, international, it is not important, but the most important thing is to sit down and to start talks. [passage omitted] [end recording]

President Delivers Independence Day Address

TA1804120591 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 17 Apr 91

[Address to the nation by President Hayim Herzog on the occasion of Israel's independence day; communicated by the President's Office in Jerusalem on 17 April]

[Text] Citizens of Israel,

Remembrance Day for the Fallen in Israel's wars has ended, and the country's 43rd Independence day has begun. The closeness of these two days is painful and difficult, the passage too sharp and immediate—but there is much symbolism in this. On our day of joy, we also carry in our hearts those to whom we owe our ability to celebrate, free and sovereign, our independence.

The years of the State of Israel are but a miniscule moment in the life of a nation, which counts its history in millenniums. Nevertheless, it seems that never before—since the exodus from Egypt—have there been such revolutionary and significant years in the life of the Jewish people. Years which have brought about total change in our nation's position, and which have once again raised it onto the center stage of world history. It is sufficient if, for a moment, we go back to the days of 1948 when the fate of the entire nation was hanging in the balance. To a besieged and bombarded Jerusalem within whose courtyards graves were dug, and each family received a morsel of food and one bucket of water daily; the convoys which fell, the bloody battles at the Radar and Castel, Latrun and San Simon fortresses; the Jewish Quarter which surrendered, the surrounded and isolated settlements in the Galilee and the Negev, the surrender of Gush Etzion and Mishmar Hayarden which was destroyed, the invasion by the Arab Legion and the Iraqi Army in the East, by the Syrian and Lebanese Armies in the North, and the Egyptian Army along the coastal region on its way to Tel Aviv and in the Judaean Hills toward Jerusalem.

If we remember this, we will be able to appreciate the challenges and difficulties which we faced and overcame thanks to a strong, visionary, and creative leadership, and we will realize to what extent our present day difficulties shrink and pale in comparison.

Two years ago, when it became clear that we were standing before a wave of immigration from the USSR and Ethiopia, and one year ago, when we were already at the height of this growing wave, I emphasized in my Independence Day address, the vital need to prepare for this tremendous challenge. If we fail to do so, we will miss a historic opportunity for which coming generations will not forgive us. I believed then, and I still believe that this issue must be removed from the constraints of our political structure, the cumbersome bureaucracy and coalition considerations, and establish one national authority which will coordinate immigration and absorption projects and which will be manned by the best forces this country, and the Jewish world has to offer. Let there be no mistake, much and welcome work has been done and tens of thousands of immigrants have been absorbed, becoming productive and satisfied citizens. Nevertheless, we cannot bury our heads in the sand and respond with [passage garbled] to some of the severe phenomena which have periodically come to light. We must not respond with indifference to that which our eyes see and our ears hear.

We cannot say that we did not receive prior warning before the anticipated immigration, and in large numbers, and it is difficult to say that we prepared in time for its absorption. The world Jewish community also received warning and generously increased its contributions to immigration and absorption needs, but with all our appreciation, we cannot say that it is sufficient to meet the entire scope of this sacred challenge.

There are wonderful cases of voluntary work, cases of goodness and of arms being opened to brothers returning home. But these do not solve the problems of unemployment and housing which are of central importance, not only to immigrants, but also to young people who have completed their military service and to young couples who want to establish a home in Israel.

We must not resign ourselves to cases of exploitation of our brothers and sisters, exploitation of their difficult situation, exploitation of cheap labor, exploitation by shameless people who have no conscience. We must not resign ourselves to manifestations of inclinations to leave the country, to rumors about the cessation of immigration in the USSR, and unfortunately also to cases of suicide, a phenomenon which has already necessitated the establishment of a special committee.

I fear that if we do not set national priorities while demonstrating the courage to make uncompromising changes in our governmental and economic system, while eradicating ugly and severe phenomena which sully our lives—we are liable to fail to maximalize one of the most historic and fateful missions which the Jewish people and the State of Israel have faced since the establishment of the State.

This is the primary goal which the Jewish people faces today, and it must receive top priority above all other considerations—political or economic—in our national agenda. One cannot be resigned to the heavy-handedness of the bureaucracy which, unfortunately, reminds new immigrants of the things which they left behind.

We have opened our doors to the immigrants, and now we must open our doors to Jews of the world so that they may come and invest and establish industry and create jobs in the country. Let us coordinate our economic and bureaucratic structure in order to attract the Jewish creativity which abounds in the world.

We are in a state of emergency, and in my humble opinion, if there is today a need to circumvent the routine of bureaucracy, it should be done without hesitation. I hope that the plans for the initiation of massive investment by the government in infrastructure for industry and national factories are indeed implemented. Initiative that can provide jobs and also assist in building an infrastructure for the future, exactly as we did in the 1950s. We must also do away with outdated and old-fashioned theories and align ourselves with the modern world. And, at the same opportunity, change our electoral system so that public representatives are personally responsible to their constituents. It is unthinkable that the best forces in the country, that built factories which are magnificent by international standards, will not be utilized on this front. We have had enough with prophecies of doom and declarations. We have already seen that they are not enough in bringing immigrants and providing them with housing, work and proper absorption, just as they cannot solve the problem of growing unemployment, which is reaching worrisome proportions, or those of young couples and discharged soldiers.

Since the establishment of the State, we have experienced cruel wars and have, in fact, endured a constant unremitting struggle for our survival. Even today, we are called upon to defend our northern and eastern borders, but this year we also experienced an unprecedented war, from our perspective, as our home front became a target for criminal missile attacks against innocent civilians. I do not believe that we lost our deterrent ability just because we acted as the righteous, whose work is done by others. A miracle occurred and Saddam Hussein turned to Kuwait and not westward and it was Israeli policy which wisely brought about an improvement in Israel's position among the nations and its strengthening, from a security standpoint.

With the Gulf war cease-fire declaration, I proclaimed that, as long as Saddam Husayn continues as the ruler of Iraq, the war is not over. My view has not changed. Therefore, for this reason and because of dangers closer to Israel, we must be strong and ready to defend ourselves against any possible combination of enemies. The disaster that is happening to the Kurdish people is sufficient to demonstrate the truth, that it is not enough to be right, one must also be strong.

We are, today, in the midst of the peace process and who, like this people—who, only today, remembered its crowded military cemeteries—is aware of the beauty of peace and of the fateful importance of its attainment in our region, which has been so afflicted.

We have entered a new era of military sophistication and technology with frightening powers of destruction. He who makes peace in the heavens, should make peace for us and all Israel. But, meanwhile, we must not forget that the highest price in blood is paid every day through negligence on the roads.

In your names, I send wishes for a happy holiday to the soldiers of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the Israel Police and the Border Guard and to the members of the security services and the intelligence community, who all stand on guard in our defense. Wishes for a full recovery go to every wounded and sick person and hopes for freedom and good tidings to our captured and missing soldiers and their families. Let us wave the flag happily on our Independence Day. Let us be proud of our right to be free Jews, a free and democratic people, of great strength, visionary and doing awesome deeds, proud to be a people reborn on its soil.

Happy Independence Day to all Israel.

Arens Comments on Defense Cuts

TA1704135591 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 Apr 91 pp 8, 9

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by correspondent Peer-li Shahar; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Shahar] This week you were heard saying that, as defense minister, you would

like to revive the Lavi project [Israeli fighter aircraft development project canceled in 1987].

[Arens] I would like to, but it is a question of resources....[changes thought] Look, one can come and ask why the public is not consulted on the matter. That, as opposed to the matter of the protection kits, for which the public was specifically requested to allocate certain sums through their National Insurance payments. The decision about the Lavi was made by the defense minister.

[Shahar] Do you not consider the decision to cancel the Lavi project irreversible?

[Arens] No, but the damage done to the project was immense. Now it will cost us a lot more money. If we can find a partner...and I am looking for partners all the time... [sentence as published]

[Shahar] Can you give us details of any contacts?

[Arens] I am trying to persuade the Americans. Anyone who sees the Lavi says that its cockpit is better than the cockpits of any plane that flew in the Gulf war. Can we accept making this terrible mistake!!?

[Shahar] So you are not ruling out the possibility of resuming production of the Lavi if we can find a partner?

[Arens] Perhaps. [passage omitted]

[Shahar] The chief of staff is currently issuing directives that will significantly reduce the size of the Army: a cutback in the number of commands and even in the fighting order of battle. Does the defense establishment and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] see no risk in such a step?

[Arens] In recent years, ever since the end of my tenure as defense minister in 1984, and during Rabin's entire tenure, there was a cut in the defense budget every year. This naturally must lead to a smaller army. Some people think that a lot of money can be saved if we trim down the fat, to cut back to the bare essentials. It is true that large frameworks have some fat, but the IDF is basically a lean and fit organization. Large cuts lead to a small army, to a smaller order of battle, less tanks and artillery. We are trying to introduce new weapon systems we ourselves have developed. Therefore, regarding the kind of weapons we are accustomed to—planes, tanks, and artillery—we will simply have less of them.

[Shahar] Until we reach a point of risk?

[Arens] We live in a state of constant risk.

[Shahar] Does this include dismissals?

[Arens] Yes. I repeat, however, that we are under constant risk. When the United States wanted to take on Saddam Husayn, it took five months for it to deploy the forces. They put together an aerial force that is three times the size of our Air Force to fight the Iraqis. They recruited a larger ground force than the IDF, and the IDF must face a far greater threat. If Saddam Husayn had decided to attack Israel, he would have come at the head of a coalition, and we would have been facing the Iraqi, Syrian, Jordanian, and perhaps also the Saudi armies, with a far smaller force than the United States put together just to face the Iraqis.

[Shahar] You are speaking about freezing the order of battle, not reducing the order of battle.

[Arens] We are moving toward reducing the order of battle in all the branches, while at the same time, as I earlier said, we will continue to invest in the local development of weapons systems. That is the only way we can reach and maintain our qualitative edge, and that is what serves to counterbalance the numerical disadvantage we have labored under through the years.

[Shahar] Was there a proposal to end the conscription of females?

[Arens] Today females perform important tasks in the IDF, and we will not quit conscripting them. We are considering reducing their length of service.

[Shahar] Concurrent with the reduction of the Army and the General Staff, there is an intention to cut back on the number of soldiers in the territories—fewer encampments and fewer patrols. Every time you tour the territories, you call for more troops. Do you believe that many troops are really necessary, or can routine security be maintained with less personnel there? Some people estimate there are more forces there than on the Lebanese border.

[Arens] Yesterday there were 22 attempts to attack vehicles in Judaea and Samaria. True, dozens of cars travel every day. Someone, however, could have been injured or killed in any one of those cars. Whether this problem continues depends on whether we can assign enough troops to resolve it. The problem is now becoming smaller, and if it is reduced even further, we will be able to reduce the number of troops. We will find efficient methods and then we will be able to reduce the size of the order of battle in the field. [passage omitted]

'Terrorist' Wounded in Jordan Border Incident

TA1804164591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1617 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has announced that a terrorist who infiltrated from Jordan was critically wounded this afternoon. Our forces sustained no casualties.

At about 1630 [1330 GMT] today, a terrorist opened fire at an IDF force moving near the Allenby Bridge. The IDF returned fire, critically wounding the terrorist, who was taken to the hospital by helicopter. The terrorist was in civilian clothes, and he possessed Jordanian Army identification cards, as well as an M-16 assault rifle.

Our correspondent Galya Ma'or heard Defense Minister Moshe Arens on this matter a few minutes ago.

[Begin recording] [Arens] I would not like to make an impromptu statement on a change in policy in view of the additional incident we had today, but this is surely a source for concern and thought on our part.

[Ma'or] What measures will be adopted in the wake of the latest wave of this kind of incident?

[Arens] I do not want to declare the measures now. We will announce the measures when we implement them. [end recording]

Chief of Staff on Jordan, Other Issues

TA180420229l Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq by army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky on 18 April; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Shlonsky] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, good evening and a happy holiday to you.

[Baraq] Good evening.

[Shlonsky] The Jordanian border has recently become a real line of confrontation. Does that mean that we will treat the Jordanian border as we do the Lebanese border? Will we launch actions beyond that line or continue patrolling and guarding the border?

[Baraq] There is a huge difference between the Jordanian and Lebanese borders, and at this stage I do not suggest that we engage in the operations beyond the border. The Jordanians are making efforts to stop the terrorist actions. We....

[Shlonsky, interrupting] Their efforts are not especially successful.

[Baraq] True, we are interested in results rather than efforts, and the results are not good. Only a few hours ago, a Jordanian soldier crossed the Allenby Bridge....

[Shlonsky, interrupting] This afternoon, you mean.

[Baraq] This afternoon he moved about 2 km inside our territory and opened fire at a group of our soldiers. They returned fire, wounding him critically. That group of soldiers included a medical team that handled his resuscitation, although I am not sure he will survive. This incident, yesterday's incident in which Gid'on 'Ezra was killed and another three Neve Ur residents were wounded, and the even earlier incident amount to an unacceptable wave. On the one hand, we will have to seek a way, together with the Jordanians, to get to the point where their efforts will be more effective and will end these infiltrations....

[Shlonsky, interrupting] What does seeking a way together with the Jordanians mean? The prime minister in his radio interview today also hinted at this.

[Baraq] You do not expect me to be more specific on television. A way will have to be found so that the Jordanian efforts will be effective. Also, independently, we will deploy so as to be able to prevent most incidents—I cannot make a promise about all incidents—before they involve harm to our people.

[Shlonsky] The defense minister hinted that a situation arose during the last days of the Gulf war in which Israel almost launched an operation, and only the fact that the war was interrupted, surprisingly as it were, prevented Israeli action. Could you elaborate on that matter?

[Baraq] That did not concern only the last days of the war. During the first days of the war, too, and throughout the war, we had a prepared operation, the aim of which was to stop missiles from being fired from western Iraq toward Israel's territory. In our opinion, that operation could have achieved its objective rapidly, for the entire duration of our forces' stay in the area, and for a certain period of time beyond their stay in the area. I do not want to elaborate on the extent of that period of time. The operation was not carried out for various reasons, although we know that technically and militarily, it was well prepared and would have achieved its goal, in our opinion.

[Shlonsky] In retrospect today, are you sorry you did not carry out that operation?

[Baraq] It is not a question of regret. I already said once that, operationally, such an action is very tempting. It was a beautiful action that could have contributed to the understanding of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] ability and even to strengthening Israel's deterrence. Still, actions are not decided on for their operational elegance; they are rather decided on for political considerations, and in my opinion, the political echelons' considerations were correct.

[Shlonsky] All in all, the Gulf war allowed Israel some strategic breathing space, and today you are talking of cuts in the Army so as to prevent risks in the future. What do you mean, plainly speaking?

[Baraq] The cuts in the Army are a result of three factors: first, a cut in budget. We had a cut of about 0.7 billion shekels annually over the last five to six years, and this year's cut will amount to 0.4 billion shekels. These are huge sums of money, which cover budgets of several government ministries....

[Shlonsky, interrupting] There are no constraints then. This is not a changed strategic situation.

[Baraq] One factor is the constraint involved in the budget cut. Another factor is a change in the strategic situation we are facing: Iraq is weakened, on the one hand; on the other hand though, there is a great proliferation of surface-to-surface missiles and chemical weapons. This and some technological opportunities that have ripened now require, on the one hand, a cut and transfer of resources from current activities and short-term goals to future projects. On the other hand, it

requires that we try to build an Army that will be able to respond to the combat challenges of the year 2000, when the present Army leadership will no longer be there.

[Shlonsky] Are you not worried about developments in Syria after the war—its military buildup, the purchase of Scud missiles?

[Baraq] I do not know whether the term worried is correct, but we should be on the alert continually. After the liquidation of half of its Army and the destruction of its biological-chemical infrastructure and nuclear aspirations, Iraq in any other place of the world would still have be considered a large power. Syria is a very large power. It has surface-to-surface missiles, and it is equipping itself with more. It is the only country that is following a two-track path in the Middle East currently: On the one hand it makes statements to the Americans that may sound somewhat pragmatic, while on the other hand, it is arming itself with the most modern missiles it can get hold of. Syria is a threat and will continue to be so as long as it has not sat down to the negotiating table and has not acknowledged the limits of its power in the new reality in the Middle East.

[Shlonsky] Let us discuss something closer to home. This morning we received a satellite film of a march of masked persons in one of the Samaria villages yesterday. Let us take a look at this film and get your reaction to it. As you can see, one of the youths there is firing an Uzi submachine gun. This film raises a few questions regarding the IDF's control over the Arab villages. There are between 400 and 500 villages in Judaea and Samaria, and these pictures have repeated themselves over and over during the three or three and a half years of the intifadah. Nothing seems to be changing on this issue.

[Baraq] This is a grave phenomenon indeed, and we will have to seek ways to stop it. This will involve a change in the methods of operation, in diversifying them, especially through breaking the morning routine of the young intifadah activist in the village. At the same time, I would not want to pretend that we have, or can have, simultaneous presence in all 450 Judaea and Samaria villages, so that nobody would be able to film a grave incident with similar manifestations or aspects anywhere.

[Shlonsky] Your predecessor in the position, Dan Shomron, said at a certain stage that the intifadah has only a political solution, not a military one. Later he stopped saying this. What do you think?

[Baraq] I do not think we need my predecessor to notice that the intifadah manifests itself in street violence and hostile terrorist activity that the Army has to handle, as well as political aspects and roots. In my opinion, there is no connection between the two. It is the IDF's duty and task to handle hostile terrorist activity, street violence, and manifestations such as those seen in this film. The IDF's aim, as far as the political aspects are concerned, is to enable the Israeli Government to discuss these aspects free of pressure, at its leisure, according to the timetable and fashion it wants to follow, and according to decisionmaking procedures of a democratic country. [passage omitted]

Army To Intensify Border Activity

TA1904044391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] The Army has instructed settlements in the Bet She'an valley to continue special security searches following the recent spate of Jordanian border incidents. At the same time, soldiers continued to comb around Kibbutz Neve Ur, where one member of the kibbutz was killed by an armed infiltrator on Wednesday [17 April]. Senior Army officers have told the kibbutz that it is still unclear how the terrorist reached the orchard where the shooting took place, as well as how long he had been there. The officers said the Army will continue to investigate the incident.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens says Israel will intensify its activity along the Jordanian border. Speaking to the Voice of Israel, Arens said the Army will ensure the population's security in that area. He would not elaborate. Arens said that the Jordanians are working to prevent border incidents but it is not enough. He said Israel has relayed messages to the Jordanians on this matter, and he said he hoped they were understood.

Blockade on Territories Lifted 19 Apr

TA1904044291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] The blockade which had been imposed on the territories was lifted this morning, and Arab laborers are now allowed to report to their jobs in Israel.

Paper Explores Shamir's 'Strong Man Myth'

TA1404113691 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Apr 91 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "The Strong Man Myth"]

[Text] What does an Israeli prime minister do when a senior minister asks him if it is true, as the foreign minister argues, that he consents to the participation of an independent Palestinian delegation in the regional meeting? He pronounces the meeting closed. It all began in the morning, when Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, stated in a radio interview that only a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation would be allowed to sit around the table. The Prime Minister's Office had suddenly fallen in love with Saddam Husayn's ally and would not be seen in public without the Jordanian option. Shortly afterward, in the Cabinet session, after Shamir more or less repeated the words of his aide, David Levi explained exactly how things stood. He detailed the position which had been presented the day before to James Baker, whereby Israel prefers a joint delegation but adheres to its commitment to talks with a Palestinian delegation; no mention was made of an

ultimatum. Ari'el Sharon sensed a constraint in the air and attempted to bind the prime minister to it; but, even though this time Shamir had Levi in the anticonstraints camp, together with Moshe Arens, Arye Der'i, and others, he could not bring himself to look Sharon in the eye and tell him the truth. Instead, the Israeli leader pronounced the meeting closed.

This is the real Shamir as far as leadership goes, and not the assertive and arrogant man as he comes across in numerous television interviews. This is not the man who is lavishly praised by commentators for his command of the Likud Central Committee and for having consolidated his power by means of daring political acrobatics between his domestic sympathizers and rivals. The political system would sometimes seem to operate as if the 76-year-old Yitzhaq Shamir were immortal and as if there had been a void before he came on the scene. Voices corroborating the theory about Shamir's immortality can also be heard in the corridors of the U.S. Administration. Aides whisper that business can only be done with Shamir; not with Levi, and with Arens there is no chance. And what about the Alignment's eternal twins? Well, don't make them laugh. In his visits in Jerusalem Baker left no room for doubt about the partner he favors, based on the knowledge that Shamir is the one who calls the shots.

Tedious analyses and commentaries are not necessary to shatter the strong man myth which has stuck to Shamir in the last few years. It is enough to look at the pattern of his relations with Ari'el Sharon, as demonstrated in the last cabinet session and as evident on any hill in the West Bank where trailers have been installed. Instead of looking Baker straight in the eye and telling him something like "my government believes it is our right to settle in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el," Shamir gets away with resorting to a semi-true explanation that the thousands of apartments that Sharon talks about to anybody willing to accompany him on a tour of the territories have not been approved by the government (the expansion of existing settlements does not require government approval).

If the heroic prime minister believes that the settlements are an obstacle to peace, why does he not put the construction and housing minister in his place? If in his heart Shamir approves of the settlements but prefers to hide from the Americans under Sharon's wide skirts—what sort of hero is he? Even Ben-Aharon acted more courageously and stated publicly: "We will continue to settle, and the Americans will continue to protest." You may say that Shamir acts more responsibly and does not want to provoke the United States for fear that the latter might not make do with protests and start talking the language of money for immigrant absorption. If so, why does he let his subordinate run the show instead of putting him where he rightly belongs?

The prime minister also keeps to the sidelines when Ben-Aharon lashes out against the commitments the foreign minister gave to the Americans to enable the receipt of $400 million in loan guarantees. Shamir eventually gave in to the man who pounded the strongest on his table and endorsed Levi's letter. As for the issue of the UN envoy in the aftermath of the incident on Temple Mount, Shamir was lured by the foreign minister's recommendation to invite Jean-Claude Aimee to a hasty visit which eventually became an almost secret visit. The recent talks with Baker once again show that nothing can be done without Shamir, but with him there are no great hopes either. What is needed is somebody like Levi who stood up to Shamir and the other Herut ministers to pull the Israeli Army out of Lebanon. Levi is what is needed now to drive Israel into the political process and keep it there.

This time Levi is facing Shamir on his own because of the cowardice of Arens and the "princes" [nickname for Likud members Olmert, Milo, Netanyahu, and Begin] who are also caught up in the strong man myth and who vent their resentment at Shamir's rejectionist positions only in private talks. What is so strong about a prime minister who allows the United States to conduct a dialogue with a delegation that declares that it represents the PLO on Jerusalem's soil? Furthermore, four weeks ago Shamir's bureau issued a press communique explaining his opposition to the participation of the Soviet Union in the meeting. According to this communique, Shamir told U.S. congressmen that although in October 1987 he had consented to such a meeting, Gorbachev's stature had declined since then and there was no telling what will happen to him. Does Shamir know something that the Israeli people do not know about an improvement in the stature of the Soviet leader in the last month, or is it that Jerusalem, just like Moscow, is ruled by a weak leader who only responds to pressure, either from Washington or from their own backyard?

Reports Detail population, Demographics

Population at 4.9 Million

TA1604133191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] On the eve of Israel's 43d Independence Day, the population has reached some 5 million inhabitants, or to be more precise 4.9 million, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Our economic affairs correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that the number of Jews is 4 million, or 81.6 percent of the total population. Since last Independence Day, the Jewish population has grown by 6.4 percent, mainly due to the arrival of 220,000 immigrants, most from the USSR.

Israel's non-Jewish population is 900,000. The overall growth rate was 5.9 percent.

Galilee Jews, Arabs 'Almost Equal'

TA1704084591 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] The number of Jewish and Arab residents of the Galilee is now almost equal in the wake of last year's Jewish immigration. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that, out of 806,000 people registered in the Northern District, 51 percent are Arab. Last year the Arabs constituted 52 percent of the Galilee's population.

West Bank Data Given

TA1704181491 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Apr 91 p B2

[Report by Yizhar Be'er]

[Text] The building drive in the West Bank, which has been stepped up in recent months under Minister Ari'el Sharon, is changing the face of the region. The intensive building, unprecedented in scope, has far-reaching repercussions not only on the demographic balance in the West Bank but also on a wide range of issues: land and water reserves, ecology, and, of course, the political future of the region. In the West Bank, which encompasses 5,800 sq km, over 1 million Palestinians and some 100,000 Jews now reside. The growth rate of the Jewish population, combined with the latest political developments, makes its leaders a feel content. They believe that the building cannot be stopped and that Israeli rule over the West Bank is assured by daily developments in the field. The Palestinians, on the other hand, feel that time is running out. The building drive encourages the pragmatic forces among them to press for a compromise settlement.

The state currently controls some two-thirds of the land in the West Bank (about 3,74 million dunams), which it seized under various pretenses. Some 1 million dunams are defined as firing ranges and closed areas; 250,000 dunams, a huge areas in local terms, are defined as nature reserves; 1.25 million dunams were declared "state lands." The latter contains a lot of fallow land—seized under a clause in Ottoman law that states that lands located in areas where shouts cannot be heard in the nearest village belong to the sultan—and the property of absentee landowners (residents who were absent from the area in 1967). In addition, over 100,000 dunams were confiscated for "public purposes" and "military needs." In some of those areas, Jewish settlements were put up, but the Palestinians were forbidden to build on them.

In the remaining third, the Palestinian population lives in 450 settlements. Of them, 25 have municipalities, 86 have village councils, and 19 are refugee camps, and dozens are without municipal status. Based on "Judaea and Samaria in the Year 2005," a research report done by a team of experts for the Civil Administration, there are no additional reserves of agricultural land on the West Bank. Most of the inhabited lands will, within 25 years, have the maximum number of people they can absorb, if new building is continued at the present density rate.

Based on that forecast, the territories will be able to absorb another 456,000-613,000 people (a 60 percent increase) in addition to the present population and taking into account the natural birthrate by the year 2015 [date as published]. The enormous population growth (the average Palestinian family on the West Bank currently has 6.02 children; in 2005, it will have 5.85 children) will lead to the establishment of clusters of towns which will include agricultural villages and neighborhoods: Bethlehem-Bayt Sahur-Bayt Jala-Jerusalem-Ramallah-al-Birah; Nablus-Huwwarah-Tulkarm-Fir'awn. The creeping building rate will create a dense urban continuity along the chief axis: Hebron-Jerusalem-Nablus-Jenin. Since there is virtually no master plan for the West Bank, the researchers expect illegal building to continue despite preventive measures by the Civil Administration.

The research does not deal at all with Jewish settlements, and therefore it is reasonable to assume that its forecasts are lacking. Nevertheless, with the aid of the report one can get a picture of the near future. In the economic field, the report expects the Palestinians to remain totally dependent on the Israeli economy. There are only 5,000 plants and workshops presently on the West Bank, most of which are very small and employ only four laborers at the most. The number of employees in all West Bank plants is currently estimated at some 20,000. Since 1987 there has been a drop in the number of building projects completed. No real economic infrastructure is being built, and residential building does not match the rate of growth of the population.

The creeping urbanization might seriously damage the ecology, warned the researchers who wrote the report. If immediate steps are not taken, they forecast that in 2005 it will not be possible to continue to control garbage collection and prevent serious pollution caused by urban and industrial wastes. That will lead to damage to the quality of water and air in Israel as well.

One of the chief sensitive issues to be raised in any future negotiations over the region will be control over water resources in the West Bank. In 1982, Ari'el Sharon, then defense minister, took a step aimed at assuring Israeli sovereignty over the West Bank's water resources. During the Lebanon war, Sharon ordered that control over the West Bank's water system be removed from the Civil Administration—which was supposed to hand it over to the residents one day—and be switched to Mekorot [the Israel water company.] This move constitutes virtual annexation. According to a report by the Civil Administration, which provides data on water supplies only to Arab settlements, the quantity of water supplied to the Arabs has not changed in the last 20 years and is 205 million cubic meters annually (only 5.3 million cubic meters come from Israel). According to data provided by the Palestinian Hydrological Institute

in Shu'fat, 120-130 million cubic meters of water are pumped for the Palestinians, while the Jewish settlements receive 50-60 million cubic meters.

However, it would be misleading to look just at the figures. According to the Hydrological Institute, Palestinians pay $1.10 for a cubic meter of water, while Israeli settlers pay only 30 cents. The privileges enjoyed by Israelis are also reflected in the water distribution. For instance, upon reaching Hebron the main pipeline splits into a subsidiary pipeline that provides water to Qiryat Arba'. Owing to the fact that the latter is lower than the main pipeline, when Qiryat Arba' residents water their lawns, Hebron is sometimes left without water. Taking advantage of that fact, residents of Qiryat Arba' have sold water from tankers to Arabs in Hebron at exorbitant prices.

The demographic growth, scarcity of natural resources, shortage of water reserves and agricultural land, lack of investments, and the economic dependence on the toil of laborers in Israel—all these will create an enormous gap between the population growth rate and the increase in the resources at its disposal. The report predicts that this gap will not be closed by the year 2005 and will cast a pall on the future of the West Bank. In 2005 there will be 1.424 million Palestinians in the West Bank. Another 250,000 will be living abroad because the gap will by necessity lead to emigration. The brain drain will continue, and Palestinian students will choose to stay to live overseas. At the same time, in times of crisis, the West Bank will serve as a haven (the report was drafted before the Gulf war and the crisis afflicting the Palestinian community in Kuwait).

The struggle to shape Palestinian society in the next 15 years will still be waged by the secular national group seeking to establish a national state and the religious sector that wants to found an Islamic state. The authors of the report believe that the struggle between these two groups will increase the tension and frustration felt by Palestinian society and might lead to the destruction of its social fabric. The continuing urbanization and the pressure of modernization will heighten internal pressures in Palestinian society and lead to its radicalization and the establishment of a reformist-Islamic movement, while the left-wing movements and the secular elite will fail to transform the social structure and shape a society that believes in democratic and pluralistic values. The gap between the demand for social justice and the ability to implement it will continue, due to, among other things, society's dependence on external elements such as the PLO.

If its foundations are not shaken by a revolutionary process —such as being granted independence or autonomy, rapid industrialization, a large-scale war on the West Bank's soil, or an all-out civil war—Palestinian society will remain trapped in the internal conflict between a "traditional" social structure and the need for socioeconomic changes. The authors of the report also foresee that in the year 2005 Palestinian society will have a hard time fulfilling its potential for democratization.

Paper Gives Muslim Demographic Data

TA1504153491 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Apr 91 p 15

[Article by Abu-Sam'an 'Abdallah]

[Excerpts] The Muslims in Israel, who make up 75 percent of all Israeli Arabs, deserve the public's attention during the present period of 'Id al-Fitr, the day ending the month-long fast of Ramadan. [passage omitted]

This group grows annually on an average of more than 3 percent (Christians increase less than 2 percent, and Druze less than 3 percent). The Muslim woman in Israel used to have an average of 8.17 births, which dropped among the present generation, but she still has an average of 4.68 children (the Druze woman gives birth to an average of 4.08 children; the Jewish woman, 2.77, and the Christian woman, only 2.57). The high natural growth among Muslims is due to the lower educational level, especially among women, lack of widespread knowledge about family planning, and the fact that the average Muslim wife starts a family earlier. The average single girl weds before she is 20 and the average age of brides, including widows and divorcees marrying a second time, is only 21.1 (the average age among Christian Arabs is 23.3).

Regrettably, the Muslim woman also leads in the number of deaths among children under the age of one year: 17 for each thousand babies, compared to 10.5 deaths among Christian women, and 7.7 among Jewish women.

The Muslims also have the worst housing density—an average of more than two people to a room—while among Jews, up to the present Soviet aliyah, there is one person to a room.

A significant contribution to the Muslim's plight are the unknown settlements. Central Bureau of Statistics data show that nearly 40,000 Muslims live "outside the settlements," while there are no Christians or Druze in such a position. This refers to Bedouin who live in tribes that the Interior Ministry and the Israel Land Administration do not accept. Those authorities plan to transfer them to recognized "centers." In the meantime, they do not have any municipal authority or services such as garbage removal, the supply of regular drinking water, or licenses for erecting structures to improve their living conditions.

This plight is also reflected in the number of high school students. Over 95 percent of Arabs students of all religions now study in elementary schools, but only half of the Muslims continue onto high school, compared to 59 percent of the Druze and 78 percent among Christians.

The Muslims' contribution to the work force is also low. Less than 39 percent of all Muslims over 15 go to work in the civilian sector. The level is even lower among Druze, only 35.5 percent, but the level among Christians is 46 percent. The explanation is simple: the number of Muslim and Druze women in the work force, outside the

home, is very low (less than 15 percent). Many Druze serve in the Army and the security forces. More Christian women work outside the home.

Poverty among the Muslims and the feeling that they are being seriously discriminated against make the Muslims ripe for accepting extremist religious and nationalist ideas. Statistics point to a sad fact: The numbers of adult Muslims put on trial in Israel in recent years shows that the average Muslim is three times more likely to become involved in criminal activities three than a Jew, and more than twice as likely as his Christian neighbor. (The number of convicted criminals per thousand in 1988 was 23.8 for Muslims, 16.3 for Druze, 10 for Christians, and 8.4 for Jews).

AL-FAJR Writer on Palestinian Aspirations

TA1504103591 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
15 Apr 91 pp 7, 8

[Article by AL-FAJR journalist Radi al-Jara'i, preceded by a passage printed in boldface containing background information about al-Jara'i and stating that "this article was rejected by the military censor and was not, therefore, published in AL-FAJR. The original Arabic text was abridged in cooperation with the author, as a result of space constraints."]

[Text] The Gulf war is over and the battle dust has settled. Now we can see things clearly and argue without tension or irritability.

The PLO and the Palestinian people have been attacked by many for their stance during the Gulf war. Many went beyond a mere condemnation, demanding that the Palestinian people be punished and 'Arafat replaced for his mistaken assessment of the outcome of the war. Although I disagree with the criticism, I can understand its causes; however, the one element whose position has been incomprehensible and odd is the Israeli peace camp. To me, it seemed a cosmetic embellishment painted over the picture drawn by the Likud and its right-wing allies.

The Israeli peace camp's working assumption is that we are what it would like us to be, not what we really are. They would like to view the Palestinian peace camp as detached from its roots and tailored to their own size. Furthermore, with a few exceptions, the majority of the Israeli peace camp members regret every having believed that peace with the Palestinian people is attainable.

None of the critics, however, have bothered to consider or probe the psychological and political background of the Palestinian position—both the official and the popular one. Why did the Palestinians dance on the rooftops as Iraqi missiles fell on Tel Aviv? Are the Palestinians, from their youngest to their oldest, a nation of murderers?

Anyone who has closely followed the hardships the Palestinian people have endured will be easily able to understand their position. The Palestinian people desire peace. This is a people that resorted to violence only in reaction to violence that was and is used against it to this very day. It was forcibly expelled from its country in 1948 and in 1967. Every form of oppression and killing was employed against it, in addition to many attempts to erase its national identity.

The Palestinian nation has always desired action along the principle of international legitimacy, the same principle on the basis of which the State of Israel was established. And today, out comes Sharon and denies the mother who bore the State of Israel—the United Nations—and the resolution that served as the basis for its establishment—the partition resolution.

In a quest for a just solution to the problem, 'Arafat, in his address to the UN General Assembly in 1974, proposed to establish a democratic state in which Muslims, Christians, and Jews would live together, enjoying equal rights and duties, without discrimination on the basis of religion, color, or nationality. After it was rejected—although in my opinion, it was a civilized proposal—we suggested a Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel.

In Geneva in November 1988, after the outbreak of the intifadah, 'Arafat presented a Palestinian initiative, which was ignored by the United States and Israel. Israel pursued its policy based on the premise that the intifadah must be expunged and that the Palestinian people must be forced to bow to Israeli rule. All this is true despite the fact that many Israelis know that prolonged occupation is unprecedented in history, and that the attempt to rule another nation forcibly is liable to be met by a stronger reaction. This is a circle of violence that will go on until the occupation is ended.

From the day on which the intifadah erupted until the beginning of the Gulf crisis, many Palestinians were killed and thousands were wounded because they objected to the occupation. This did not suffice to move President Bush or Europe to pressure Israel into obeying international resolutions and implementing Geneva Conventions on the subject of occupied territory. On the other hand, the United States and its allies recruited armies to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

At the time, we supported Saddam Husayn's attempt to link the Gulf crisis with the Palestinian problem. Every Palestinian was then aware of the two-faced nature of the international community, which employs a dual set of values in addressing crises. Not for a moment had we wished the Gulf war to happen. We made every possible effort to find a diplomatic solution to the crisis, one that would also serve as an opening for a solution of the Palestinian problem.

The Palestinian nation believes that America and Israel, which disclaimed the existence of this nation's legitimate national rights before the Gulf crisis, are the obstacle preventing it from enjoying these rights. How then can the Palestinians be expected to support America against Iraq? We wanted to find an Arab solution for the Gulf

crisis, and we did not support the occupation of Kuwait. On the contrary, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and King Husayn obtained Saddam Husayn's commitment to withdraw from Kuwait. America, however, left Saddam with no opportunity to withdraw. In my view, its main goal was to destroy Iraq's military strength, rather than to liberate Kuwait.

The Palestinians danced as missiles fell in reaction to the oppression to which they had been subjected during years of occupation. What else can be expected from a mother who lost a son or a mother obliged to tend to a crippled son who was injured by an Israeli Army bullet? What else can be expected from a man whose land had been expropriated, whose house was demolished, and whose entire family was punished because one of its sons hurled a stone or firebomb at an Israeli car?

The message was: Why should we be the only ones to lose our dear ones? Why should only our houses be destroyed? Why can the Soviet immigrants be Israeli citizens with full rights as soon as they land in Ben-Gurion Airport, while a Palestinian loses his citizen's rights if he as much as misses by a little the date of return stamped on his travel visa? What do the Israelis expect? Having sown thorns, they cannot expect to reap grapes.

The Israeli Government's policy that the intifadah must be eradicated by force sows hatred and hostility between Palestinians and Israelis, deepens the abyss between them, and daily postpones peace.

The Israelis must try to understand us for what we are. If they make an attempt, they will be able to understand our positions. There is no need for the peace camp to wish us peace, because peace is in everyone's interest—Palestinians as well as Israelis. The Israelis must understand that only a just peace can survive. The persistent hiding behind extremist stands will only deepen the hatred and nourish the circle of violence.

If the Israelis continue to chant the slogan "We do not speak with the PLO," and if they adhere to their claim that the Palestinian problems are limited to Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, there will be no progress toward peace. That will only aid the Israeli radical forces to prop up the policy of the status quo, which destroys every chance for peace.

The Israeli center- and left-wing parties, and particularly the Labor Party, bear the historic responsibility of acknowledging the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and of cleansing the Israeli public mind of the brainwashing to which it has been subjected for dozens of years by its political establishment. They bear the additional responsibility of freeing the Israeli public from its fear of peace.

The Palestinians are required to make a step toward peace, and a similar step is required of the Israelis. The only alternative to this is war, destruction, and more victims. The Israelis must choose between war and peace.

AL-FAJR Views Baker's Continuing Efforts

TA1704195891 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 15 Apr 91 p 5

[Article by Hanna Sinyurah, AL-FAJR editor-in-chief: "Ambiguity, Vagueness and Constructive Diplomacy"]

[Text] Twice within 30 days a Palestinian delegation has met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, to exploit the window of opportunity opened in the aftermath of the Gulf war in order to provide a breakthrough toward peace in the Middle East. Baker's second round of talks can be seen as an attempt to prevent local players from simply drifting apart, as the momentum to orchestrate a peace conference is in danger of evaporation.

After two hours of bilateral talks, the Palestinian delegation expressed mixed feelings. Some impressions from the meeting were optimistic, others skeptical. Most agreed that Baker's elaboration was vague on the regional conference and the "twin-track" approach and also on key Palestinian demands: freeze on settlement activity and expansion policy, Palestinian representation, role of the PLO and the right of self-determination.

Some concrete points made by James Baker were the importance in the initial stage of bringing the Palestinians and Israelis to the negotiating table and the goal of the next stage is to provide for self-government for three years which he described as more than self-rule or autonomy but less than an independent state. [sentence as published] Also Secretary Baker met for the second time with a Palestinian delegation, authorized and designated by the PLO, despite criticism by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir of the first meeting.

In order to quell Palestinian suspicions on the efficacy of a regional conference, Secretary Baker must get an iron-clad promise from the Israeli government to freeze its settlement policy as a confidence-building measure, proof that Israel is coming to the negotiating table in good faith.

It is important to note that the Palestinian people are accorded a parallel significance at the highest level of American representation, similar to Israel and other countries in the region. Ambiguity and vagueness at this stage, according to the experts, is an important part of constructive diplomacy to get the ball rolling, and the contestants to the negotiating table.

Western Al-Biqa' Areas Under Israeli Bombardment

NC1804094491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0930 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] The areas of Jabbur, Abu Rashid, and Hill 910 in western al-Biqa' have been coming under Zionist bombardment since 0940 today. Three Zionist tanks have been spotted heading toward Hill 910.

Israeli Fighters Overfly Sidon, Camps

NC1804122491 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] A formation of Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon and its camps at 1015 today.

Buwayz Discusses Militia Disbandment, Weapons

NC1704210491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stated that the Palestinian factions cannot use Israel's occupation of the south as a pretext for rejecting the government's decision to disband the militias and hand over their weapons to the state. He said that if the Palestinian groups keep their weapons, the Lebanese militias will want to keep theirs as well.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-LIWA' to be published tomorrow, Buways added that Lebanon insists on being part of an international peace conference on the Middle East because it is directly involved in the issue. Lebanon's participation in the conference, he added, would not affect its truce with Israel. Buwayz called on the Security Council to implement Resolution 425.

Buwayz declared that the militias will not be compensated for their weapons when they turn them in because they were paid for with the people's money. He stressed that the handover of the weapons is a final and irrevocable matter. He noted that no specific deadline has been set for the event but said that a political deadline exists, and it is not important if it is delayed for a few days.

Defense Minister Denies Army Deployment Reports

NC1904100691 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] Certain newspapers and radios carried statements attributed to Defense Minister Michel al-Murr to the effect that the militias will be disbanded by force between 2 and 3 May.

The Information Department at the National Defense Ministry affirms that such statements are completely baseless and unrealistic. The department adds that what the defense minister said before the parliamentary committees was that negotiations are taking place with the militias to work out a solution that would ensure the army's deployment without resorting to force. But the defense minister added: If such efforts fail, the army will be gradually deployed in implementation of the cabinet decision effective 2 May. If some militias resist this step, the army will use force to achieve its deployment.

Ibrahim Denies Reports of PLO 'Obstacle'

NC1904073991 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] Muhsin Ibrahim, leader of the Communist Action Organization, resumed exchanges and consultations on the issue of Palestinian weapons. Yesterday he met with Minister of State Dr. Nazih al-Bizri, Nasirite Organization leader Mustafa Sa'd, and the PLO leadership in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. Ibrahim also met with Minister of State Walid Junblatt in al-Mukhtarah.

Ibrahim briefed them on the outcome of his talks in Tunis, Algeria, and Libya, as well as on his talks with the Lebanese officials. He also briefed them on the PLO's stand on the disbandment of militias, collection of Palestinian weapons, and the consolidation of the state's authority in all of Lebanon.

Ibrahim and Minister Muhsin Dallul are expected to visit Bludan in Syria where they will hold talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

During his meeting with the PLO officials in Lebanon, Ibrahim conveyed the position of the PLO leadership in Tunis. This position calls on the Palestinians in Lebanon to react positively to any official Lebanese decision or stand, to avoid raising any topics, and to give the ongoing efforts for mediation a chance.

In his statement, Ibrahim expressed optimism about relations between Lebanon and the Palestinians. He pointed out that press reports of a Palestinian obstacle reflect the wishes of those who stand to lose from the national accord march. He denied that the Palestinians are obstructing the national accord march, adding that the PLO supports Lebanon's endeavors to ensure implementation of Resolution 425.

Lebanese Forces Reportedly Continue Arms Sales

NC1804074291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] AL-SAFIR reports today that the fourth consignment of weapons being sold to foreign parties by the Lebanese Forces weapons left the country the night of 13-14 April. Well-informed sources told the newspaper that the Lebanese Forces transported the weapons from al-Jurd to the coast near Juniyah and Jubayl aboard 24 vehicles, claiming that they were to be handed over to the Lebanese Army. When night fell, however, the weapons were unloaded onto waiting ships.

According to AL-SAFIR, the arms sales are organized by the U.S. mafia. The paper added that the first consignment was sold to Soviet Armenia, while the second went to southern Sudan and the third to Somalia. The sources said that the Lebanese Forces have reaped $280 million in profits from the arms sales so far.

Saudi Crown Prince Arrives, Meets With Khaddam

JN1804150591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Excerpts] His Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, arrived in Damascus at 1530 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. Leading those who welcomed him at Damascus International Airport was Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Saudi Ambassador in Damascus Shaykh Ahmed al-Kuhaymi were among those who welcomed him. [passage omitted]

Khaddam and Prince 'Abdallah held a meeting at Tishrin Palace. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the accompanying Saudi delegation, and the Saudi ambassador in Damascus.

Closed Meeting Held

JN1804175191 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1735 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] At 2000 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received His Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the Saudi National Guard and first deputy prime minister, the delegation accompanying him, and the Saudi ambassador in Damascus. The expanded meeting was followed by a closed session between his excellency the president and Prince 'Abdallah. [Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic on 2015 GMT on 18 April in a similar report adds: "The talks dealt with developments in the aftermath of the Gulf war, regional developments, and issues of common interest."]

Departs 19 Apr

JN1904124391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] His Royal Highness Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, first deputy prime minister and commander of the Saudi Arabian National Guard, left Damascus at 1330 today after a two-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus international airport by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Wahib Fadil, and Saudi Ambassador in Damascus Shaykh Ahmed al-Kuhaymi. After shaking hands with those bidding him farewell, including Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for foreign affairs, and the Saudi Embassy staff in Damascus; Khaddam and Prince 'Abdallah proceeded to the dais of honor, the Saudi and Syrian national anthems were played, and the two officials inspected the guard of honor.

Khaddam and Prince 'Abdallah held a meeting at 1215 today at the Tishrin Palace. The meeting was attended by the accompanying Saudi delegation and the Saudi ambassador in Damascus.

International Community Urged To Pressure Israel

JN1804150091 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus—Responding to a question by a SANA correspondent, Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, stated the following: At a time when a real opportunity exists to establish a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and at a time when serious efforts are under way to achieve this kind of peace, there have been successive Israeli statements and practices aimed at wasting this opportunity and undermining these efforts. Israel's rejection of the UN auspices of the peace conference means that it rejects the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and refuses to abide by the UN Charter and principles of international law. The international community, which adopted a unified and firm position on the Gulf events to consolidate international legitimacy, affirm the principles of international law, and implementation of the UN resolutions; is called upon to draft and adopt a formulation capable of compelling Israel to comply with the will of the international community, respect international legitimacy, and implement the UN Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question. Thus showing the same enthusiasm it exhibited while implementing the UN Security Council resolutions on the Gulf. This is because this represents the sound path toward the establishment of justice, peace, and stability in the region and the world.

Commentary Views Baker's Third Mideast Tour

JN1804141191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has embarked on a new tour of the Middle East, the third of its kind in three months, aimed at advancing efforts for a peaceful settlement.

There is no doubt that the U.S. concern reflects serious efforts and a conviction that global peace will not be achieved as long as our region remains in turmoil.

Recent events have confirmed that the Middle East is a powder keg and that if its fuse is lit, it will disturb international security. Moreover, because the Middle East has lacked peace and stability for more than 40 years, in spite of all international efforts and resolutions, and because the international community is an indivisible whole and the principles that govern its course should apply to everyone without discrimination, the United States has been active recently. President George Bush has expressed his country's absolute commitment to implementing international resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338 issued by the Security Council, since they are the basis of settlement in the region.

During his first and second tours of the region, Secretary Baker sounded out the prospects for a settlement, suggested some ideas, and listened to other ideas, especially those of Syria. It is clear that the Arabs are serious about achieving a settlement. A settlement, however, cannot succeed and continue if it is not just, comprehensive, and based on a host of principles and realities.

This is because the Arab-Israeli conflict is a conflict between all the Arabs and the Zionist entity. The Palestine question, furthermore, is an Arab issue, and the responsibility of resolving it is a pan-Arab one. Syria has mobilized all its capabilities throughout the past 40 years to face the Zionist danger and rally support for the Palestinian cause. Syria has always declared that Palestine comes before the Golan, based on the unshakable belief in the unity of Arab destiny and the unity of battles against Zionism.

It is natural that Syria will not relinquish the Palestinian cause and the rights of the Palestinian people; neither will it bargain over these rights, even if this were to be in exchange for regional gains. Syria also strongly believes that only real peace can lead to security and stability, and real peace hinges on two principles over which there can be no dickering: Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, and recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people, the foremost being their right to self-determination.

The West Bank, Gaza, Jerusalem, the Golan, and southern Lebanon are territories which Israel occupied by force and aggression. These territories are an indivisible whole of the Arab nation, and there is no room for relinquishing them. In other words, Israel is asked to show a serious desire to withdraw from these territories and exchange them for peace. Thus far, this desire has not been felt by anyone. In fact, the contrary is true. The Shamir government has continued to pursue settlement activity. Moreover, it is acting as though the occupied territories are part of the Zionist entity. It was only a few days ago when Shamir declared that settlement activity is not linked to peaceful efforts. The enemy government has begun to establish a new settlement in the West Bank, while statements on not recognizing Palestinian territories or withdrawing from the Golan have continued.

If the enemy rejects withdrawal from the occupied territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, then what peace is it talking about? Moreover, what would be the point of any conference held under these circumstances?

The aspired for peace conference is a conference to implement international resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338; therefore, there is no alternative to an active and basic role of the United Nations in this conference. In fact, the UN presence is a guarantee for achieving a lasting, comprehensive peace that provides stability and security to all the nations of the region, and consolidates international peace.

The Arabs have declared their readiness to establish peace in exchange for regaining their land. It is now Israel's turn to affirm its readiness to establish the hoped for just and comprehensive peace by its abandoning the occupied territories and recognizing the Palestinian people's rights. No two people in the world would differ on the point that expansion and aggression—the mainstays of Israel's policy thus far—are the antithesis of peace, and pave the way for a new war in the region. President Bush and his national security advisers have acknowledged this fact. So, will Israel abandon its expansionist schemes? Perhaps part of the answer to this question will become known during Baker's present tour.

Efforts Outside UN Resolutions 'Waste of Time'

JN1904070591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A Source of Danger to Peace," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH writes in one of its comments: The current international effort for a just settlement of the Arab-Zionist conflict, like previous efforts, has started to come up against an Israeli position based on belligerence, rigidity, and forgetting facts of logic, history, and geography.

AL-THAWRAH says that at a time when international unanimity is beginning to form on the need to establish a just and permanent peace in the Middle East based on implementing UN resolutions on the Middle East and finding a just solution to the Palestine question that guarantees the people their inalienable national rights, Zionist officials rush to make their fiery statements on the future of their expansionist and settlement policies. Here we quote the terrorist Shamir's statements in which he suggested drawing red lines that cannot be crossed by any international action, even if issued by the United States. Examples of this are setting up a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the subject of Jerusalem, and other issues, apart from the previous rejection of the idea of an international conference.

AL-THAWRAH says that by placing these conditions, Israel not only hampers the international community's movement toward establishing peace and stability in the region, but proves once again that it alone is a source of danger to international peace and security.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: If the international community cannot force Israel to implement international resolutions on the Palestine question and all other resolutions with any connection to the Arab-Israeli conflict and means to solve it, including the international conference formula, then any effort exerted outside this framework will only be a waste of time.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Receives Soviet Delegation

LD1404212191 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] The Presidential Press Office reports that a high-ranking Soviet delegation visited the Republic of Afghanistan 12-15 April [as heard]. The delegation was led by His Excellency Oleg Baklanov, special envoy of His Excellency Mikhail Gorbachev, president of the Soviet Union, and was comprised of high-ranking officials of the Soviet Union's various bodies. The delegation held four rounds of talks with esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan. During these talks a broad spectrum of the issues concerned relations and cooperation between our two countries in the military, economic and political spheres.

Esteemed Najibullah briefed the delegation about the political-military situation of the country, especially about the armed and expanded aggression by Pakistan's militarists and adventurist circles against the Republic of Afghanistan. He stressed the need for cooperation among the relevant countries to prevent blatant aggression by Pakistan and the defense of peace and security in the region.

The Soviet side pointed out the loyalty of that country concerning the commitments and agreements between the two countries. They pledged all types of assistance toward removing the present tense situation around Afghanistan. The talks passed in a climate of friendship, which is indicative of the traditional ties between the peoples of the two countries and a very important factor of peace and stability in the region. The high-ranking Soviet delegation also met with esteemed Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, and with other high-ranking Afghan authorities.

Council of Ministers Discuss Oil, Broadcasting

LD1604091491 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Excerpts] The Prime Ministry Press Office reports that a Council of Ministers meeting was held today in Kabul under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Fazl Haq Khaliqyar. The Council of Ministers discussed and made decisions on developing oil and gas exploration; improving work in ministries, administration, and state firms; providing better facilities for Hajj pilgrims; organizing radio and television transmission hours according to transmitters' capacities and technical capabilities; the report on the planning minister's visit to Seoul, the ROK capital, to attend a session of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific; and some legislative documents.

The esteemed prime minister, noting the stabilization of market prices mentioned measures taken by the government to maintain a relative stabilization of prices. Esteemed Khaliqyar said that some measures had been taken to bring down the price of primary goods, especially wheat and food, including meat, and that measures are underway to stabilize the price of the afghani against foreign currency. Esteemed Khaliqyar mentioned with gratitude new measures by the Ministry of Defense to make savings in meat consumption in army units and brought this to the attention of ministers and other organs of the Armed Forces in order that they should take similar measures.

Abdol Samad Salah, minister of mines and industry, presented a report on the speed and better coordination in the spheres of the expolaration, discovery, exploitation, refining, and transportation of oil and gas, and their use.

The session decided in principle to set up a central oil and gas administration in the Ministry of Mines and Industry on the basis of existing administrations that are concerned with oil and gas, and recommended that more work be done about the proposal. [passage omitted]

Proposals by Sayd Nasim Alawi, minister of communication, and Ahmad Bashir Roygar, minister of information and culture, on the disproportion between present radio and television transmissions and the technical capabilities of transmitters, and on a review of programs broadcast, were approved. A resolution was issued in this respect.

Gholam Mohaydin Shahbaz, minister of planning, who had been to seoul as heard of a delegation participating in 47th annual session of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific, presented a report to the Council of Ministers. The Council of Ministers praised the fruitful results of the Afghan delegation's visit and its talks with the authorities of the ROK and the executive secretary of the UN Econmic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific. [passage omitted]

Mopping Up Operations, Rebel Clashes Reported

LD1304180291 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] The units and companies of the Armed Forces in the General Command of Kabul Garrison inflicted crushing blows today on the positions and centers of the warmongering extremists in areas around Kabul Province, and carried out mopping up operations.

According to a report by the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section, as a result of these blows, a number of extremists and mercenary Wahhabis, including 'Abu Hamid and 'Abu 'Abdullah [names as heard] were killed and a number were injured. Their positions and heavy weapons were destroyed.

Also during today's mopping up operations, 18 cases of DsHKs' shells, six cases of PK shells [as heard], 26 rocket launcher shells, 19 hand grenades, two cases of Kalashnikov shells, and seven mortar shells were seized.

Seven persons from the Gulbuddin extremist group and his rival groups were killed recently in fierce fighting which took place among them in some parts of Baghlan Province. According to a report by the BIA military section, also in the course of these attacks 10 of them were injured and a quantity of arms and ammunition was destroyed.

Groups linked with the Gulbuddin extremist group clashed recently over the distribution of goods stolen from the people in some parts of Chaprahar sub-district, Nangarhar Province. As a result of heavy fighting among these groups, three persons were killed and four others were injured.

Bangladesh

Deposed President Moved To Dhaka Central Jail

BK1904050091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0439 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] Dhaka, April 19 (AFP)—Bangladesh's deposed President Hussain Mohammad Ershad was shifted to the high-security Dhaka Central Jail from a government villa, authoritative sources said here Friday.

The sources said he was taken to the jail late Thursday night under tight security and was being kept in a large room in the old parts of the complex, adding that a ceiling fan had been provided against the sweltering heat.

Paramilitary Bangladesh rifles and armed police were guarding the complex and he was under double security protection, the sources said.

Mr. Ershad's wife Raushan and children were still in the villa, where the former first family had been interned for more than four months, they said.

The move came less than a week after Prime Minister Khaleda Zia promised Mr. Ershad would be shifted to the jail "soon" since it was the unanimous decision of parliament.

Mr. Ershad, 61, stepped down in december in the face of mass demonstrations against his nearly nine-year-rule and was interned in the government villa soon after.

Officials said Mr. Ershad's trial would continue as planned.

He is being tried by a special tribunal for alleged corruption and possesion of illegal weapons.

India

Envoy To Protest Sri Lankan Attack on Fishermen

BK1904100691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] The Indian high commissioner to Sri Lanka, Mr. Narendra Jha, will take up the issue of the Sri Lankan naval attack on Indian fishermen with the Government of Sri Lanka. According to a press release issued by the Tamil Nadu government, this assurance was given to the state governor, Mr. Bhishma Narain Singh, when the high commissioner called on him this morning.

The Sri Lankan president, Mr. Premadasa, has again called upon the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] to come to the negotiating table. Inaugurating the third session of parliament today, Mr. Premadasa said talks can commence with the declaration by the LTTE to eschew violence for achieving political objectives. He said his appeal is in the name of millions of innocent civilians in the northeast who are compelled to undergo sufferings.

The opposition boycotted the inaugural session protesting against the government's failure to check spiralling prices and to solve the major problems faced by the island nation.

Meanwhile, at least nine soldiers and three LTTE militants have been killed in clashes in the northeastern part during the past 24 hours.

Bahraini Diplomat's Daughter Abducted in Bombay

BK1904084691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0832 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] New Delhi, April 19 (AFP)—Police have launched a hunt for an unidentified man who reportedly abducted the six-year-old daughter of a Bahrain diplomat from her school in Bombay, police said Friday.

Police sleuths were searching for an unnamed Arab who Thursday reportedly abducted the daughter of a diplomat in the Bahrain Consulate General in Bombay's fashionable Cuffe Parade District, a police officer said by telephone.

The officer was unable to give further details, but the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) identified the girl as Veda, daughter of diplomat Jaffer Ahmad Ali Hubail, and said the girl was being held for a ransom of 90,000 rupees (4,500 dollars).

PTI, quoting local newspapers, said the abductor met the principal of the girl's school posing as a Bahrain Consulate employee and took the child away, saying her father wanted her at home, PTI said.

The abductor then reportedly phoned Mr. Hubail with the ransom demand and police were investigating reports that he had visited the same private-run school

some eight days ago regarding the enrollment of another Arab student, the agency added.

The Bahrain Consulate General in Bombay could not be immediately contacted for confirmation of the report.

Algerian Foreign Affairs Delegation Arrives

BK1804160291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] An Algerian delegation led by the secretary general of foreign affairs, Mr. (Husayn Judi), arrived in New Delhi today for talks with his Indian counterpart, Mr. Muchkund Dubey. During the talks today, the two sides exchanged views on many issues, including postwar scenario in the Gulf and the role of the Nonaligned Movement.

Islamic Group Makes Plea for Kidnapped Swedes

BK1604012091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1940 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] New Delhi, April 15 (AFP)—A Swedish-based Moslem organization has appealed to Islamic militants in Indian-administered Kashmir to free, "in the name of Allah", two Swedes kidnapped more than a fortnight ago.

The appeal from the Islamic Council of Sweden, released here Monday by the Swedish Embassy, came as security forces continued their search for the hostages in India's northernmost, only Moslem-majority state.

Johan Jansson and Olle Loman, both engineers, were kidnapped at gunpoint by activists from the Moslem Jaanbaz Force (MJF) near Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, on March 31.

"We feel it our Islamic duty to interfere and forward an earnest request to your Islamic organisation (MJF) to take speedy and appropriate steps to release those Swedish citizens before Id al-Mubarak (Tuesday's Moslem holiday)," the council said in its appeal.

The MJF, which has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, has demanded that Indian authorities allow international human rights groups to visit Kashmir, apparently to study allegations of excesses by security forces, as a condition for releasing the hostages.

The letter, a copy of which was understood to have been circulated in Kashmir, pleaded for "an urgent response" from the MJF.

The MFJ is a hardline militant group fighting for the secession of Kashmir from Hindu-majority India.

Kuwait Expresses Appreciation for Gulf War Stance

BK1504162591 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Kuwait has appreciated India for the principled position it took from the beginning on the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait. This has been communicated by the deputy prime minister of Kuwait, Mr. Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, in a letter to the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar. Referring to India's contributions for resolving the issue, the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister said his country will always look forward to further development of relations between the two countries.

The government has decided to waive off the requirement of immigration clearance for six months for all those workers who returned from Kuwait and Iraq and desire to go back to any Gulf country for employment purposes. A press note issued in New Delhi today said the passport of any such person will be endorsed after satisfying from documentary evidence that he had earlier served in Kuwait or Iraq and has a fresh contract for employment. The step has been taken to provide relief to all such persons who had returned from these countries in the wake of the Gulf war.

Meanwhile, about 500 American companies have shown keenness to subcontract Indian companies for reconstruction projects in Kuwait. This was stated by India's ambassador to United States, Dr. Abid Hussain, in Washington today.

Coal Cooperation Protocol Signed With Canada

BK1204163691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] India and Canada have agreed to cooperate in the coal sector. A protocol on this was signed in New Delhi today by the secretary of Department of Coal, Mr. R.C. Jain, and the Canadian high commissioner to India, Mr. (John L. Painter). The Indo-Canada working group on coal also reviewed various ongoing projects being implemented with Canadian assistance and explored the possibilities of cooperation in new areas.

Paper Cautions Against Supporting U.S. World Order

BK1704142391 Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Apr 91 p 4

[Editorial: "India and Pax Americana"]

[Text] Foreign Secretary Muchkund Dubey has come face to face with the new reality of the post-Gulf war period on his visit to the United States to discuss India's role in the regional security arrangements which Washington is planning. He was told that any role would depend on this country's willingness to become part of America's New World Order, and toe the American line—not a happy prospect. He has been asked to explain India's abstention on resolution 686, which, in New Delhi's opinion, fell short of a formal ceasefire and it appears that in future India's voting at the UN will be strictly monitored. If the report is correct then it is a totally unacceptable situation. It places limits on India's freedom of action; its decision-making has to be within the parameters laid down by Washington. The United States, flushed with its military and diplomatic success, is turning the United Nations into a wholly-owned

subsidiary of the State Department. It believes that it can set the agenda and push through any resolution it wants. In the American perception there cannot be any role for India in the security arrangements it is planning for the Persian Gulf region. Only America's allies and dependents will have a role to play, though it is difficult to see how any arrangement that excludes India, Iran and Iraq can ensure security in the region. It is not yet known whether a role is envisaged for Pakistan. Mr Dubey can of course convey India's concern over the arrangements and point out how it affects our interests and bring to the attention of the American government the modifications we would like but it is extremely unlikely that it will have any impact on the action of the American government. There is every reason to believe that what interests the United Stats really is creating a miltiary bloc. There are already reports that it is planning to establish bases in the region and preposition material. It is time that New Delhi recognised that the American intention in the region is to ensure its dominance, to bring the enormous oil resources of the region under its control. The war against Iraq has enabled it to achieve one of the major objectives of its foreign policy and it is certainly not going to be convinced by even a silver tongued Mr Dubey to whittle down what it considers to be its national interests to accommodate India. Instead of seeking a role in the setup to monitor the elimination of weapons of mass destruction or the supervision of payment of compensation, India will do well to coordinate its policies with Iran, Iraq and even Pakistan—if Pakistan would review the situation of its unqualified subservience to the US—to ensure that the extra-regional power, in the arrogance of its power, does not reduce all of us to the level of subordinate allies. Security in the Persianl Gulf should primarily be the concern of the regional powers and it should be made clear to the United States that its attempts to establish domination over the region will only lead to instability. This cannot be done by taking orders from Washington and subordinating Indian interests to something vague like the new world order. Washington has to be informed politely but firmly that in the Persian Gulf as elsewhere India will give precedence to its own national interests.

Paper: No Concrete Outcome of Sri Lankan Talks

BK1704140191 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 12 Apr 91 p 8

[Editorial: "Mere Intentions"]

[Text] After their three-day talks, the Indian and Sri Lankan delegations led by the respective Foreign Secretaries have produced a statement which will easily take the cake for its verbiage. And this means that the draft agreement on the establishment of a joint commission to deal with economic and cultural ties said to have been finalised by the delegations must be, literally, a far more weighty document. Indian and Sri Lankan officials have once again demonstrated their expertise—often noted in the UN and other multinational forums—in burying a needle of substance in the haystack of impressive rhetoric. Notice their present agreement on "the need for stimulating balanced growth through identification of new products for export, trade promotion measures, exchange of delegations from trade and industry and the liberalisation of trade barriers" and their discovery of "promising possibilities of co-operation by Indian consultancy organisations etc. etc." This and much else about the potential of close Indo-Sri Lankan relations has been known for decades. To reiterate all this is only to express pious intentions. Even on a concrete issue like the long-standing proposal of the ONGC [Oil and National Gas Commission] for oil exploration in the Gulf of Manner, all that the joint statement has disclosed is that the two sides will enter into negotitions after the evaluation of the proposal by the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation. And as for the equally important issue of rehabilitation of the Trincomalee Oil Tank Farms, the statement has nothing more to convey than that the Sri Lanka side took note of the Indian interest in it!

The talks between the two delegations have only underscored the difficulty of getting round the politial problems created by the Sri Lankan ethnic strife for a breakthrough in economic co-operation though New Delhi and Colombo undoubtedly share the objective. One only hopes that the cycle of violence in Sri Lanka will not create new complications to delay the establishment of the proposed joint commission beyond the present deadline of the end of this year. Until then the only cause for optimism will be an exchange of visits soon by a delegation of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and a Sri Lankan investment promotion team. This is far more likely to give a concrete shape without much loss of time to the reforging of mutually beneficial Sri Lankan-Indian economic links than official declarations of intent.

Paper Comments on Talks With Pakistan

BK1804111091 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 9 Apr 91 p 8

[Editorial: "Treading Warily"]

[Text] At the end of the fourth round of Indo-Pak talks at the Foreign Secretary level, the note was one of cautious optimism. After a series of encounters, Mr Muchkund Dubey, and his Pakistan counterpart, Mr Shahryar Khan (a scion of the Bhopal royal family), have built a cordial rapport between them. Owing to the failure of the political leadership in both countries in developing and sustaining a dialogue, the task has fallen on the bureaucrats of Islamabad and New Delhi. And within the constraints they are under, they have done well.

The joint statement by Mr Dubey and Mr Khan was significant for what it covered and what it left untouched. Following upon the military commanders' meeting from April 1-4, a clutch of military-related agreements were signed. The two sides are expected to notify each other in advance about peacetime military

exercises. That would help in avoiding flaps which ex-Brass Tacks created, for example. An agreement has been signed on preventing violation of each other's airspace, and a provision agreed upon for overflights and landing facilities in each other's territory. Coming, as it does, after the ratification of an agreement on non-attack of each other's nuclear installations, this latest round is another hesitant step forward.

The issues covered are considered "soft". The problematic ones, namely, Kashmir, Siachen, nuclearisation and Punjab are as yet unaddressed. The crux of the matter is, as far as the contentious issues are concerned, Pakistani policy is determined by the Inter-Services Intelligence-Bureaucratic Lobby and not by politicians or diplomats. On Monday, the Pakistan National Assembly initiated a debate on Kashmir. In reality the gulf is still very wide indeed. In the absence of a strong, confident government in power, at Islamabad and New Delhi, this is to be expected.

The positive step taken by Mr Dubey and Mr Khan is that they have given a time frame for what has to be achieved before their next round at Islamabad in end-August or early September. Committees will have dealt with three other issues—Wullar Barrage, smuggling of narcotics, and demarcation of the border at Sir Creek in the Rann of Kutch. An Indian military delegation is to visit Islamabad some time after the general election in India. In such nebulous political conditions, diplomats can only tread softly over the hurdles. And these are, after all, in diplomatic parlance, confidence-building measures.

Anti-Inflation, Foreign Exchange Steps Announced

BK1204163491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] The Reserve Bank of India [RBI] today announced the credit policy for the first half of 1991-92 aimed at containing inflation and conserving foreign exchange. An RBI release in Bombay said the new measures include increase in lending and deposit rates, tightening of selective credit controls, reduced access to refinance facilities besides a moderation of the credit-deposit ratio. To contain inflation, the RBI raised the lending rate on limits over two lakh rupees by 1 percent. The new rates will be effective from tomorrow.

Orissa Chief Minister Wants Constitution Redrafted

BK1604094491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] The Orissa chief minister, Mr. Biju Patnaik, has demanded the formation of a new constituent assembly to redraft the Constitution. Addressing a public meeting at Mahanhatta near Cuttack, Mr. Patnaik said the present Constitution has placed massive power at the disposal of the center and failed to fulfill the aspirations of the poor. He called for a real federal structure, warning that otherwise the country may disintegrate.

Home Minister Denies Excesses in Kashmir

BK1404131491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] The minister of state for home affairs, Mr. Subodh Kant, today reviewed the law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir with the state governor and senior officials. Later, speaking to newsmen in Jammu, he said the situation in the Kashmir Valley has shown a qualititative improvement since January last year. He refuted the Congress-I President Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's allegations of increased violence in the valley and described those as politically motivated. Mr. Subodh Kant denied any excesses by the security forces and said if any lapses come to the government's notice, proper action would be taken against the guilty.

Paper Asks Shekhar Not To Condone Corruption

BK1704135991 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 12 Apr 91 p 8

[Editorial: "No, Prime Minister"]

[Text] Ever since becoming Prime Minister, Mr Chandra Shekhar seems to have been consciously trying to project himself as a no-nonsense practitioner of realpolitik who has no time for sanctimonious cant and who is realistic enough to realise that politicians will be politicians and not pure as the driven snow. A part of this exercise has been his ostentatious owning up of his friendship with some rather disreputable people and an indulgent attitude to corruption reflected in statements like the one that the Bofors case was a matter for a sub-inspector of police. He has done it again! Asked whether anything will come of the Bofors case, he said during an interview published in THE ECONOMIC TIMES on Thursday, "... What great sin has been committed if he (Mr Rajiv Gandhi) accepted Rs [rupees] 60 crore as commission? Is it such a catastrophe which will make or mar the country's future? Since the days of Jawaharlal Nehru, commissions are being regularly accepted."

This is an astoundingly cynical attitude in a public figure and Prime Minister of the country. Apart from the moral dimensions of clandestine private enrichment by persons in positions of trust, there is the question of robbing the public treasury. Rs 60 crore is not a small amount. It must have been paid for value received otherwise at public expense. Realism is one thing, but the condoning of corruption or making light of it is something else altogether. And it is all the more deplorable if no less a person than the Prime Minister does it. It sets the tone for the administration and sends out signals in a system steeped in sycophancy. The Prime Minister's posture will discourage the investigating agencies from doing their job as those manning them would feel that their findings will be ignored by a government which regards corruption as no sin. Worse, all this will contribute to a climate of permissiveness in which corruption by politicians will cease to carry a stigma and polticians, confident that they will face neither punishment nor public

disapprobation, will feel free to plunder the exchequer to build private fortunes. The result will be collapse of the system as whoever is in any position of power and authority will follow the politicians's example and laws and norms will cease to have any meaning in any walk of life. Mr Chandra Shekhar, no spring chicken in the politics, ought to know this.

More Reportage on Upcoming Lok Sabah Elections

Gandhi Predicts Congress-I Success

BK1404034291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0200 GMT 14 Apr 91

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] New Delhi, April 14 (AFP)—Rajiv Gandhi, gearing up for next month's now-or-never election bid, believes he is rapidly closing a communication gap with Indian voters that he blames for his Congress (I) party's eclipse.

The 47-year-old former premier, wooing the electorate with promises of a stable, durable government, feels he lost touch with the pulse of the people sometime during the five years he was in power after a landslide win in 1984.

"The main mistake was this, a lack of communication with the people," Mr. Gandhi said here Saturday. "It was both ways—we lost touch with the people and the people lost touch with us—and a lot got compounded because of that."

"We have gone through what we did right and what we did wrong," he said during a rare interview on the lawns of his fortress-like residence.

And, he reckoned, he and his party did plenty that was right. The economy strengthened, India's international image improved and thorny communal and caste disputes were contained during his 1984-89 rule, he said.

"But we found tremendous anger in the north," he said, citing the Congress (I)'s debacle in the electorally crucial Hindi-speaking heartland of India in 1989. "We couldn't project our achievements because of the communication gap."

That was a mistake Mr. Gandhi said his party was trying to reverse, voicing confidence the Congress (I) was getting its promise of stability across to a responsive electorate.

"It looks like the congress will get a comfortable majority," he said, and refused to answer hypothetical questions on post-electoral alliances in case no party won a majority to form a government on its own.

He looked fresh and relaxed, dressed in a spotless white homespun Kurta-pyjama outfit, but appeared slightly nervous and at times defensive during the free-wheeling news conference.

The former airline pilot, who gave the Congress (I) its largest- ever mandate on a sympathy wave stemming from the October 1984 assassination of his mother Indira Gandhi, said the issues before the electorate this time were stability, prices and violence.

The right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) is banking on the Hindu majority to vote it into power on its crusade to replace a disputed 16th-century Moslem shrine in the northern town of Ayodhya with a temple.

The centrist National Front Alliance led by Mr. Gandhi's successor Vishwanath Pratap Singh is hoping to gain office by wooing India's sizeable backward Hindu castes and its Muslim minority with job quotas and strident opposition to the BJP.

Mr. Gandhi said neither was projecting the real issues.

"I feel (the real issues are) the prices and the violence—and a stable government that can control prices and violence in the daily life of the people," he said.

"The last 15 months have been catastrophic," he said of his party's months out of power.

Inflation has hit double-digit levels and separatist violence has shown a sharp upsurge in the Sikh-majority Punjab and Muslim-dominated Kashmir states.

The pressure on Mr. Gandhi to win the election is considerable.

Corruption was the main issue in the 1989 general elections that brought to power Mr. V.P. Singh, who used alleged corruption in a 1.3 billion dollar gun deal with the Swedish firm Bofors as a plank to forge political power.

This time, no one is talking about corruption and the Congress (I) is not labouring under the traditional hostility displayed by the electorate towards parties in power.

Some observers have predicted that Mr. Gandhi's leadership of the Congress (I) would face a severe threat if the party is not returned to power.

And some believe the very future of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty—founded by his grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first premier—is at stake.

Mr. Gandhi preferred to brush aside such questions.

"The party is doing well and I don't think we need to talk about that," he said.

He defended himself against suggestions that his policy of import liberalisation had caused India's foreign debt to mount to 70 billion dollars.

"If you are going to run your country without loans, your growth will be very slow," Mr. Gandhi said.

On foreign policy, he said he wanted a South Asia free of regional squabbling of the kind that has marred relations between India and Pakistan.

"The whole of South Asia has to get out of the rut of squabbling with each other and not look at each other with suspicion," he said.

On domestic issues, Mr. Gandhi said he was confident he would be able to get the Muslim separatist campaign in Kashmir under control.

Sikh separatism in Punjab and a left-wing insurgency in the northeastern state of Assam, he believes, have reached more serious proportions and will take a longer time to bring to heel.

Mr. Gandhi has drawn scathing criticism for forcing Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar to resign and order new elections after propping up his minority government for four months.

The issue that forced the break was alleged police surveillance ordered by Mr. Shekhar's close associate Om Prakash Chautbala on Mr. Gandhi's house here.

"It was a very serious issue," Mr. Gandhi said. "It was a breach of trust. We wanted some kind of political action to demonstrate that he (Mr. Shekhar) was distancing himself from the episode. But he chose Mr. Chautbala to the congress."

[Delhi Domestic Service in English at 0240 GMT on 14 April reports the following: "The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has said that normalcy can be restored in Kashmir much faster than in Punjab, where it will take more time. He made this observation while speaking to foreign journalists in New Delhi yesterday. Mr. Gandhi said that a decision on holding the elections in Punjab should not be taken now, but be left to the next government at the center. He said the situation in Assam is even worse than in Punjab for holding the elections in that state.

"The Congress-I president said rising prices and prevailing atmosphere of violence will be the main issues in the forthcoming elections. He said he does not favor the idea of smaller states that want decentralization of power. The panchayati raj and nagar palika [local administration] bills, which the Congress-I government during his time brought in Parliament, were steps in that direction."]

Gandhi Threatens Punjab Boycott

BK [illegible] Delhi Domestic Service in English

[Text] The Congress-I has expressed apprehensions over the plan to hold elections in Punjab and Assam. The party's general secretary, Mr. Pranab Mukherji, told reporters in New Delhi today the situation in the two states is not conducive to holding elections.

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi has said that his party is keeping in touch with the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] which in turn is holding talks with the CPI and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] for an integrated effort to see that the elections in Punjab are not held. He told newsmen in Madras this evening that the Congress-I will boycott the Punjab election if it is held. Regarding elections in Assam, he said the situation there is not as serious as in Punjab.

The CPI-M has expressed its concern over the decision of the government to hold elections in Punjab along with the Lok Sabha poll. In a statement issued in New Delhi, the party said the holding of elections in the state without proper safeguards will mean handing over Punjab to the extremists.

Punnjab, Assam Elections 20, 23 May

BK1904033491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] The filing of nominations for elections to the 10th Lok Sabha and assemblies in the states of Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh and the union territory of Pondicherry begins today. This follows the issue of a notification by the president, Mr. Venkataraman, at midnight last night calling upon the electorate all over the country except in Jammu and Kashmir to elect their representatives to the 10th Lok Sabha. With this, the election process to the parliament of the world's largest democracy has been set in motion. Simultaneously, governors of the states of Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh and the Licutenat Governor of the union territory of Pondicherry issued notifications calling upon the people to elect their representatives to the legislative assemblies in their states.

The presidential notification says that a separate notification will be issued in due course for elections in the Lok Sabha constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, the president promulgated an ordinance yesterday to exclude the state from parliamentary elections.

The present notification calls upon 537 of the 543 Lok Sabha constituencies, including those in Punjab and Assam, to elect their representatives. The election commission has already announced the poll schedule for all states and union territories except Punjab, Assam, and Jammu and Kashmir.

The Uttar Pradesh governor, Mr. Satyanarayan Reddy, issued a notification calling upon the people to elect their representatives for all the 425 constituencies in the state.

In Haryana, the state governor, Mr. Dhaniklal Mandal, issued a notification setting in motion the election process for 90 assembly seats.

By elections will also be held to nine assembly seats in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Mizoram along with the Lok Sabha poll.

Here is a report received just now. A notification issued by the election commission this morning said that Punjab and Assam will be going to the polls on the 20th and the 23d of next month. Assembly polls in these two states will also be held simultaneously.

Ordinance Excludes Kashmir Elections

BK1804160091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Exc...] The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, has promulgated an ordinance excluding the state of Jammu and Kashmir from the Lok Sabha elections being held next month. The ordinance issued this evening sets at rest doubts about holding elections in Punjab and Assam. [passage omitted].

Communist Party Election Manifesto

BK1804161491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Some more political parties have released their election manifestos today. The CPI [Communist Party of India] in its manifesto has pledged to safeguard national unity and secularism, restructure center-state relations, ensure social justice for the backward and the down-trodden and to take effective measures to overcome the present economic crisis.

The manifesto says the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] issue should be settled either through a negotiated settlement or by a court verdict. The nine-page manifesto was released in New Delhi today by the CPI leader, Mr. Avtar Singh Malhotra. It promises speedy implementation of the Mandal Commission report along with 10 percent job reservations for the economically weaker sections. It also calls for an immediate multi-pronged political initiative to solve the problems in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, and Assam. The party called for greater autonomy for the states and abrogation of Article 356 of the Constitution [concerning imposition of president's rule in states].

The CPI says it will endeavor to bring a self-reliant economy, giving priority to the public sector, curbing monopoly houses, and for the protection of the small-scale industries. Development of indigenous technology, need-based minimum wages and 50 percent budget allocation for rural development are other economic proposals in the manifesto.

The party wants the right to work to be made a fundamental right. Thirty percent reservation for women, compulsory primary education, and giving land to the landless. The CPI manifesto calls for setting up of a permanent judicial machinery to inquire into allegations of corruption against ministers and for introduction of proportional representation in elections. The party pledges autonomy to the electronic media making it accountable to Parliament.

In foreign relations, the CPI manifesto adds India must not succumb to pressures from the United States and should strengthen friendship with the Soviet Union and further improve relations with China and other neighboring countries.

Replying to newspersons queries, Mr. Malhotra said the prime minister should consult all political parties before deciding on a poll schedule on Punjab.

Security Forces Mobilized

BK1404081491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0626 GMT 14 Apr 91

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] New Delhi, April 14 (AFP)—Indian security forces face a daunting challenge in next month's parliamentary polls, which both organisers and contestants fear could be the most violent in the country's electoral history.

Complex planning has already begun for the deployment of 300,000 paramilitary troopers in 22 states where balloting is to be conducted May 20, 23 and 26 in the world's largest democratic exercise, officials said.

Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan summoned the police chiefs of eight states Saturday and urged them to mobilise thousands of officers to ensure peaceful and free polls as India chooses its 10th parliament, state-run television reported.

He also discussed deployment of paramilitary forces in the states during the elections, the station added.

Each indian state has between 25,000 and 40,000 policemen, and federal officials said provincial governments have reportedly cancelled all leaves and asked officers to return to duty before the election.

Mr. Seshan, who acknowledged recently that there could be violence during the election, has not ordered polls in Kashmir, and has been silent on whether there will be balloting in the troubled states of Punjab and Assam.

Contestants also said they feared widespread violence during voting in the four crime-plagued states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Tamil Nadu, and five simultaneous state elections are adding to their worries.

Paramilitary organisations such as the 130,000-strong Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) have begun hastily drafting new recruits to bolster their forces, already thin on the ground because of heavy deployments in Punjab, Kashmir and Assam.

Sikh and Muslim militants are waging violent separatist campaigns in the northern states of Punjab and Kashmir. An anti-India insurgency is also raging in the oil-rich assam state in the country's northeast.

"It is risky to send out new recruits on election duty," said a top official from the bureau of police research and

training. "Five trained troopers are better than 1,000 bewildered fresh men with guns as they could lead to chaos and serious trouble."

"We plan to deploy some 130 battalions (100,000 troopers) during the polls, but we have not yet finalised our deployment plans," said a CRPF spokesman, adding that the agency has recently drafted 20,000 fresh recruits for election duty.

"The new recruits would also be deployed," he said, adding that other paramilitary forces, like the 90,000-man Border Security Force (BSF), could also be drafted for poll duty despite their standing assignments.

"We would send out men in the states next month, but it depends on the requirements," said a spokesman from the elite BSF, which is battling armed militants in Punjab and Kashmir, both frontier states.

Security officials said the federal government was also keeping in readiness organisations such as the 30,000-man Indo-Tibetan Border Police, the Central Industrial Security Force, which has 40,000 troopers, the Tamil Nadu Special Police, Uttar Pradesh's Provincial Armed Constabulary, and other non-military forces.

Caretaker Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar has said the army could be called in to reinforce state police in the event of trouble. The Indian army has never before been deployed during balloting.

Federal sources said the eastern state of Bihar had asked New Delhi for 60,000 rifles for its officers before the polls, following reports that political activists and thugs have stockpiled 50,000 firearms in the volatile state, news reports said.

"There could be a bloodbath if precautions are not taken during the elections in bihar," said a spokesman for former Premier Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) party, which is contesting all parliamentary seats in the Janata Dal-ruled state.

Citing fears of poll-related violence, the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People's Party), which has launched an explosive anti-Muslim programme to garner Hindu votes, has also called for adequate security arrangements.

Politicians have voiced fears of violence in Haryana state.

Haryana was put under federal rule earlier this month after its chief minister, Om Prakash Chauthala, quit for the third time in less a than year following controversies—including one sparked by allegations that he was behind previous poll violence in the state.

'Militants' Kill Eight Persons in Punjab

BK1804052491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] In Punjab, militants struck in a big way in Samana town of the Patiala District killing eight persons and injuring another four last night. According to an official spokesman, two motorcycle-borne militants opened indiscriminate fire at a police patrol vehicle killing seven security force personnel and a passerby. Four persons were injured.

Elsewhere in the state one militant is among eight persons killed in separate incidents. In Amritsar City, one militant consumed cyanide and committed suicide when arrested by a police party.

Militant, 4 Soldiers Among 12 Killed in Punjab

BK1904051491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] In Punjab, one militant and four security force personnel were among 12 people killed in separate incidents since last night. The security forces have since launched a massive search operation to apprehend the culprits. One militant was killed in an encounter with the security force in Kharad area of Rupar District, while the security forces arrested four militants and recovered a large quantity of arms, ammunition, and explosives in the Beas area of Amritsar District.

Iran

UK Minister Reportedly To Discuss Hostages

LD1804152391 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] London, April 18, IRNA—Britain's minister for overseas development, Lynda Chalker, will arrive in Tehran Friday night, on the first visit to Iran by a British Government minister since the Islamic revolution in 1979. The journey was approved by Iran because it was supposed to involve an assessment of the situation facing over 1,000,000 Iraqi refugees in Iran.

However, prior to her departure to Turkey on Thursday, on the first leg of her trip, Chalker said she will be asking the Iranian Government for help to free Western citizens held captive in Lebanon. It seems the British Government is attempting to capitalize on the humanitarian issue of Kurdish refugees, to justify its policy of sending no aid to Iran for those refugees.

On British television Thursday morning Lynda Chalker said she will tell Iran that Britain "is helping you", and asking the Iranian authorities to therefore help to gain the release of British and other Western captives held in Beirut.

By announcing in advance that she will be raising the matter of three British hostages in Lebanon, many independent Muslim journalists have no other option but to believe that this signifies another double standard in Britain's policy towards Iran.

Chalker will be in Iran on Friday with a consignment of aid for Iraqi refugees, and a letter from Britain's foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, to his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Douglas Hurd said the aid accompanying Chalker is part of a humanitarian effort and that the release of Westerners from Lebanon would also be a humanitarian gesture.

Following the graphic accounts of the refugee situation in Iran, given by the opposition Labour MP, Ann Clwyd, upon her return from Iran on Monday, the British public became aware of the lack of help given to Iran by the British Government.

Ann Clwyd, the Labour foreign affairs spokeswoman then raised the issue in the UK parliament and both politicians and the general public pressed the UK government to act. The public in Britain also became aware that the British Government was politicizing the humanitarian issue of Iraqi Kurdish refugees for its own interests. Public and political pressure on the British Government eventually led to the sending of Lynda Chalker to Turkey and Iran.

Chalker will be accompanied by journalists from international news agencies, to ensure maximum publicity of her trip.

Reports Denied

LD1904122991 Tehran IRNA in English 1059 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA--The British Charge d'Affaires David Reddaway has denied news reports that his country's minister of overseas development, due here today, will discuss the Western hostages with Iranian officials, according to the Foreign Ministry.

Reddaway met with the Foreign Ministry director general for West Europe Thursday afternoon.

The British envoy at that meeting said that the visit of the British Minister of Overseas Development Lynda Chalker only aimed at holding talks with Iranian officials on the status of the Iraqi refugees.

Chalker, the first British minister to visit the Islamic Republic since the culmination of the 1979 Islamic revolution, is due to arrive here later today.

Khamene'i Criticizes Bush, Saddam

LD1804174191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Excerpts] During a large gathering this afternoon of the people of Mashhad and the pilgrims to the pure shrine of his holiness the eighth imam, Imam Reza—peace be upon him—the leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, thanked the people of Iran for helping the Iraqi refugees, and praised the extensive presence of various strata of the people in the marches marking world Jerusalem Day. We continue this hour's news in detail from the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran with a report from our colleague from the Mashhad center.

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] The leader of the Islamic revolution criticised the recent remarks of the U.S. President in which he expressed his desire for improving relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: They want to have good relations with a system in which there is no sign of Islamic values and aims. In that case, the Islamic Republic would be a false name. They will never have normal relations with a system that views Islamic values as its most vital aims. [passage omitted]

In the final part of his speech, the leader of the Islamic revolution denied claims concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran's involvement in the internal affairs of Iraq. He added: We are carrying out our duties of Islamic brotherhood by our humanitarian help to Iraqi refugees. We advise bullies and our enemies to learn a lesson from the fate of Saddam Husayn in the laboratory of history. Despite massacring the people of Iraq and destroying cities and holy shrines—which are sacred to millions of human beings—Saddam will in the end be destroyed. America will also meet this fate. [passage omitted]

Paper Discusses U.S., Saddam Relations

NC1804201091 Tehran ETTELAAT in Persian 13 Apr 91 p 2

[Ahmad 'Azizi commentary entitled: "Saddam's Last Service to the United States"]

[Text] The United States is in the throes of ambivalence due to the lack of a clear policy in the aftermath of Iraq's defeat and the cessation of hostilities for the liberation of Kuwait. This ambivalence stems from their fear of getting bogged down in a quagmire in which its military success would be forfeited. It is also concerned about the lack of consensus among coalition forces and the permanent Security Council members, especially regarding the continuation of military pressure against Iraq. The United States is also concerned about its impotence in imposing a successor government. It hopes to find a government-in-embryo that will have all the qualities favorable to the West. It wants that government to be

born naturally and hopes that it will not have to be induced by a Caesarean birth.

It appears that the U.S. abstention from continuing the war until the complete annihilation of the Ba'thist regime's forces was based on the analysis that the disillusioned armed forces, whose destiny is linked to Saddam's, would cooperate with him in suppressing the internal movements. The people of Iraq would be ready to accept an alternate government—however unpleasant—because of the country's current disillusionment. On the other hand, the explosion of pressure due to the present government's defeat coupled with the reorganization of Saddam's opponents would ultimately facilitate a military coup d'etat and the emergence of another government, however temporary.

To combat this, Saddam launched his own initiative. He savagely repressed the defenseless Iraqi people and defeated the dissidents. In doing so he rendered more than 1 million men, women, and children homeless, which plays into the regime's hands because it weakens the uprising. These moves have all been calculated by the Ba'thist regime. The Baghdad regime capitalized on the U.S. reticence to generate another international crisis which would involve it and the allies in a not very unexpected scenario and quite attainable circumstances.

On one hand the United States cannot remain indifferent to public opinion in implementing its postwar policy; on the other hand, it is being forced to wait for the natural birth of a future Iraqi government.

Saddam is fully aware that the United States is reluctant to become involved in internal Iraqi politics. This is why he has begun combating U.S. policy and obtaining concessions for changing conditions for his own benefit. This move is reminiscent of Iraq's refusal to withdraw from Kuwait despite the pressure of the massive coalition forces until the last moments of the ground assault. Saddam was counting on the fear of these forces of a ground battle in order to extort some concessions.

Iraq's violations of the conditions announced by the United States for the "peace zone" on the 32d parallel and its continuation of acts of suppression on the ground are evidence that the country is pursuing the same policy of internationalizing the problem, only this time it is the problem of the refugees. Undoubtedly, because Saddam is able to continue such acts in view of the U.S. ambivalence and without heeding its warnings he will keep the flames of the crisis alight in the region. In this way, Saddam has achieved major gains in consolidating his position and boosting the morale of the forces still loyal to him. These new conditions will force the United States to review its policies regarding the future of Iraq and the region.

In order to do anything of value the United States will need another UN resolution because a complete ceasefire has been declared. Even though the present resolutions stress the need for peace and stability in the region, they indirectly leave the door open for the United States and its allies to make military moves in this regard. Resolutions should allow for the establishment of "enclaves" [preceding word in English] within Iraqi territory. These areas should not be under Iraqi jurisdiction and should have boundaries that are emphasized.

The continuation of such a policy and the adoption of such a resolution, in view of its extensive dimensions especially regarding its implementation and the identification of the area envisaged, is of the utmost importance to the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries of the region. The refugee situation will in no way affect the political dimensions in the region.

By placing limits on the legitimate government of Iraq in exercising its jurisdiction in northern or southern Iraq, such a resolution will be in violation of the proclaimed stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the need to respect Iraq's territorial integrity and to maintain its geographical structure. If the establishment of such a zone or "enclave" does not result in an independent state at the very least it will be in line with the policies of world arrogance aimed at weakening the axes of power in the region and creating new balances. These conditions will usher in a new world order and enable us to bid farewell to the Nixon Doctrine.

Editor Views UK 'Safe Haven' Plan

NC1804153891 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 Apr 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Saddam the Source of all the Misery Now"]

[Text] The proposal by the British Premier John Major to set up a Kurdish enclave in northern Iraq now is the word of the world's political circles.

British permanent envoy to the U.N., David Hannay, elaborating on the plan, has said that it aims at creating a "safe haven" in northern Iraq to enable the Kurds to enjoy security and the humanitarian relief assistance being proffered, and make sure that they are not directly threatened by the Baghdad regime.

The British proposal has brought mixed reaction including welcome from the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party leader Mas'ud Barzani.

In the meanwhile, some observers in the region have voiced scepticism over the plan, and believe that the plan seems to pave the way for a change in the geopolitical map of the region.

Moreover, the plan by itself falls short of some points. Firstly, if executed, it would be the first time the Security Council is going to approve and implement such a plan, and that would be unprecedented in international law. Secondly, if that plan is implemented, it would just constitute a short-term tactic and will not solve any of the fundamental problems of the Iraqi Muslim people and the region. And thirdly, why should the plan include Kurdistan only? Muslims in southern Iraq are faced with

a similar deplorable situation. Hitherto, 70,000 Muslims from southern Iraq have sought refuge in Iran, and some have fled to the territories now under the occupation of the multinational forces.

According to reliable reports reaching here, large group of Iraqi Muslims have also escaped, to save their lives, to southern Iraq, where the zones are surrounded by swamps. But even they are now threatened by death at any moment.

Tactics cannot tackle Iraq's problems. In fact, now, Saddam is the source of all the disasters inflicted on Iraq and its people, hence he should be put on trial as a war criminal.

Saddam must stand trial for his numerous war crimes, including setting ablaze the Kuwaiti oil wells and pouring the oil into the Persian Gulf, which has caused the largest environmental disaster in recent decades, the consequences of which will even affect the future generations. These big war crimes merit another "Nuremburg Court" to try the Baghdad ruler being set up.

Radio Commentary Views Plan

LD1804144491 Tehran in English to Europe 1130 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Unattributed commentary: "Safe Haven Idea Might Create Future Problems"]

[Text] Presence of 800,000 Iraqi refugees in Iran, considering their urgent needs for basic facilities, has created a deplorable plight. In this regard the Islamic Republic of Iran is making its utmost effort to save this huge number of homeless people. Because of the Baghdad regime's crimes the deserting Iraqis are getting themselves to the western borders of Iran in groups. Yesterday 4,000 more of the Iraqi men, women, and children entered Iran through Nowsud border area. They were settled in special camps set up for their safety. According to all the foreign witnesses, despite the Islamic Republic of Iran's call on the international organizations in foreign countries for helping refugees, there has not been any response so far. As a result the Iranian people and government, extending their inestimable aid to the Iraqis, are trying to do their duties concerning their fellow human beings. Ms. (Anna Astana), who was missioned by the probe team of the International Committee of Red Cross to look into the refugees' affairs, has stated that the committee's aid packages include only 200,000 people. She continues: Therefore, other organizations should also send their aid to solve this grave problem.

Despite the critical situation of the refugees, the Western countries, particularly the United States and Britain, instead of sending the needed facilities to the refugees settlements, are now busy reviewing the plans which, according to many political experts, their implementation might create problems in the future. U.S. President George Bush yesterday announced that his country is in favor of a safe haven for the Iraqi Kurds in northern Iraq. He said he intends to carry out the plan with the participation of Britain and France. Although Bush stresses on nonintervention in Iraq's internal affairs, undoubtedly the idea of a safe haven inside Iraq may inevitably entail a series of new political conflicts in the region.

What seems to be a correct and human solution to the question at present is to prevent the Iraqi Ba'th regime's suppressive measures. In other words, the United Nations Organization and its members should employ all their efforts to stop bloodshed in Iraq, so that the innocent Iraqi people would not have to leave their homeland. The EEC recently said it is ready to arrange Saddam's trial for his crimes against the people of his country. The decision has received a cold reaction from Washington so far, but what should be paid attention to in this tense situation is that hundreds of thousands of Iraqis are living in the hardest living conditions. All the world humanitarian circles should rush to help them; and besides, the governments and the United Nations should pressure Baghdad through different ways, making it stop its inhuman actions and let the Iraqi people choose their fate.

Editorial Rejects Returning Iraqi Warplanes

NC1804155291 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 14 Apr 91 p 2

[Editorial: "No Planes as Long as Saddam Rules"]

[Text] As the reports despatched from Iraq indicate, the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's Republican Guard units in collaboration with Yemeni, Jordanian and Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) mercenaries are massacring tens of thousands of defenseless civilians and forcing more than 1m [million] to depart their homeland in reprisal for the Iraqi masses' revolt against Saddam's despotic regime. Cases of live-burning of Kurdish families or mutilating civilians in supposedly "liberated" towns and cities of Iraq are now routine felonies being committed by forces faithful to Saddam. In one case an eyewitness told reporters in Iran that 45 members of a Kurdish family, including women and children, were set ablaze on charges of revolting against Saddam. In another deadly act of revenge, the Ba'thist forces accused seven civilians of writing anti-Saddam slogans on walls in al-Basrah and killed them all in front of other people to teach them a lesson. Saddam's record of dictatorship has proved there is no end to his thirst for blood as long as he is alive.

Saddam's unpopularity among his people has reached to a degree that in order to crush the popular uprising against his despotic rule, he has to rely on Yemeni, Jordanian and MKO mercenaries. At the present time Saddam uses every available means at his disposal to suppress the popular uprising against his regime. The U.S. permitting Baghdad the use of its helicopters

against the people provided Saddam the best opportunity to massacre civilians. Thus the role of air support should not be ignored in relation with suppression of the Iraqi people's uprising.

A number of Iraqi military planes defected to Iran during the Persian Gulf war. Iran should never return the planes to Baghdad as long as the person of Saddam rules, simply because they will be used against innocent Iraqis. As the Iranian officials have repeatedly said these airplanes belong to the Iraqi people, thus they should not be used as tools in the hands of Saddam for massacring defenseless civilians. Saddam's disrespect for religious values reached to a point that he ordered his troops to shell the shrines of Hadhrat 'Ali (A.S.) [allahu salaam—peace be upon him] and Imam Husayn (A.S.). An act that even the infidel western forces did not commit during their war with Iraq. Thus he will not hesitate, as he did not, to bombard religious places, including the imams' shrines and mosques by fighter planes, because these places are the centers of the popular uprising against his regime.

In addition, it has become obvious for all that Saddam Husayn is not a stable person. One day he makes peace, the next day he tears his peace treaty and starts a war. A brief review of Saddam's political behavior with his neighbors is clear proof of his unstable behavior. He signed the Algiers Treaty with Iran in 1975 and he tore it up 1980 and started a devastating war against Iran. Three years after the cease-fire with Iran on Aug. 2, 1990 he invaded Kuwait, his former war ally and on Aug. 14 he once again accepted the 1975 Algiers accord. But recently he violated the peace agreement between the two countries and on March 26, 1991 his forces crossed into Iranian territory at the Khanaqayn-Khosravi border point and attacked Iranian forces, leading to the death and injury of a number of Iranian border guards—a clear act of aggression and violation of international relations—which proves Saddam's unstable behavior. Therefore the possibility of his adventurism against Iran and deployment of the airplanes (now in Iran) for bombarding Iranian cities and economic centers should not be ruled out if Tehran ever decides to return the planes to Baghdad under a mad man's rule.

Editorial Comments on Iraqi Refugee Exodus

NC1804161391 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 11 Apr 91 p 2

[Eitorial: "A Fruitless Suppression"]

[Text] There is an strategic principle saying the ability to destroy does not mean the ability to control. This is the most outstanding problem facing the U.S. and Iraq's Ba'thist regime in the region. Both countries have displayed their capability of annihilating people and squandering their wealth though they are quite unable to bring the situation under control.

The Ba'thist regime of Iraq mistakenly thought that it could control its Kurdish and Shiite communities, who make up the majority of the population, by suppressing and finally wiping them out.

A glance at the incidents happening in Iraq in recent weeks indicates that it would be a blunder to suppose that the Ba'th party has gained victory by suppressing the popular uprising. In fact, the Ba'th party intended to cut two out of the three pillars of the Iraqi nation through its massacre of Shiites and Kurds.

However, the influx of nearly three million Iraqi people fleeing Iraq's army, which has been the most unprecedented move both in quantitative and qualitative terms, frustrated the rulers of Baghdad in their efforts to cover up the popular nature of the uprising in that country.

Even until ten days ago, Saddam Husayn and his propaganda machines were speaking of a rebellion by a few foreign inspired elements and trying to blame, explicitly or implicitly, Iraq's neighbors for the anti-government movement. But with the exodus of one of the largest waves of human being in the past 50 years, all political and propaganda ploys of the Iraqi rulers have been foiled.

Another point proved during the recent Iraqi events is the superiority of the Islamic faith and cultural bonds between the two Muslim nations of Iran and Iraq over national and racial distinctions, as well as the triumph of the Islamic Revolution's theory in uniting world Muslims.

If one objective of Iraq's eight-year-old war against Iran was creation of superficial frontiers between the peoples of the two countries, and also insinuation of hostilities between them, the Persian Gulf events and the subsequent developments inside Iraq proved that this goal of the Ba'th Party's international backers in its war against Iran was never fulfilled.

That today about one million Iraqi Muslims have sought asylum in the Islamic Republic to protect their lives is not a simple issue and can be regarded as one of the most prominent manifestations of the Iraqi people's hope in Iran and a sign of defeat of the imperialist propaganda machines.

In view of the war-mongering nature of the Iraqi regime, some people here have raised the question on the likelihood of another Iraqi war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. In response, it must be said that three major reasons rule out such a possibility, at least within the next several years.

First because of Iran's defense capabilities. Secondly, due to Iraq's strtegic weaknesses. And thirdly, because of fundamental changes in international and regional political equations.

Here the weak parameter of the Ba'th Party is very important and one of its most basic reasons is the national disintegration in Iraq due to the people's suppression by the Ba'th Party. If the Ba'th Party sustained great military and prestige loses in the war with the allies, it lost a greater thing in the war with the Iraqi people,

that is the possibility of domination over a people who formed a major portion of its infantry.

Now it can be said that as long as Saddam Husayn and the Ba'th Party remain in power in Baghdad, the Iraqi nation would be weakened and humiliated. Therefore, the Iraqi people have no option but to continue their liberation struggle against the despotic regime in Baghdad until they achieve ultimate victory.

Paper Says Saddam Not Responsible for Refugees

NC1804164291 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 13 Apr 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Saddam Is Not the Only Criminal"]

[Text] It is expected that as many as 2.2m [million] of Iraq's 3.5m Kurds will have fled that country within the next two weeks. One million are already in Iran and .5m are encamped on the Turkish border. This exodus marks the swiftest and largest recorded refugee migration in history. Of the 17,000,000 refugees in the world today, 4.2m or 25 percent of the total are resident in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

These unfortunates, overwhelmingly Afghans, Iraqi Arabs and Kurds are here as the result of superpower military adventurism both in Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf. As with the Afghan refugee question, the new Kurdish influx will probably be viewed from Washington as another burden to add to Tehran's agenda in hopes of keeping this nation at a developmental standsill.

Ironically, Saddam's latest depopulation project received a big boost Thursday with the finalization of a permanent cease-fire having been achieved at U.N. headquarters in New York. American troops will now begin evacuating southern Iraq and Saddam will be free to deploy his 200 odd war planes against dissidents throughout Iraq.

It's a good bet that those Iraqis now in the U.S. occupied sector will be slaughtered if they do not make their way behind the lines of the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Obsevation Mission (UNIKOM). These U.N. troops will be in place in perhaps two weeks and maintain a demilitarized zone 10 kms inside Iraq along the entire 200 km Iraq-Kuwait border. Even being inside the UNIKOM zone is no guarantee that the 30,000 Iraqis involved will be safe.

In point of fact, Saddam Husayn, yesterday George Bush's Hitler, seems the only person the Americans and the Western allies are truly interested in saving throughout the length and breadth of Iraq. Strange positioning indeed for so-called enemies of totalitarianism and supporters of democracy. But in the Middle East at least and especially in the Persin Gulf, the Americans and the NATO countries are at their hypocritical worst with respect to their own political principles.

The Kurdish flight is certainly an unwanted and unexpected wrinkle for the Western allies and in particular George Bush because it has intruded on their orgasm of self-congratulations for having devasted Iraq (thereby leaving Israel in a military pre-eminent position) and siphoned off all those potentially troublesome Arab petrodollar surpluses. Thus we find Kuwait in flames and Fahd in line for loans, while both royal families are more indebted for survival to the Americans than even before.

Paradoxically, Western policy still retains Saddam Husayn as a key player in its Persian Gulf strategy. That is exactly what former French foreign minister, Claude Cheysson Expressed when he said: "....fortunately Saddam Husayn was there to crush the Shi'a uprising in the south. Otherwise it would have triggered a new tide of Islamic fundamentalism in Iran and across the gulf". Saddam's continuing relevance to Western aims in the area is also precisely what George Bush had in mind when he allowed Baghdad to deploy helicopters against the initial successes of the insurgents.

The terror Iraq holds for the West is certainly not of a military nature and it never was. Yesterday they were angered with Saddam because he had swallowed a British colonial creation. Today they are tacitly supporting him because he represents the antithesis of free choice in his country and be sure that free choice in Iraq is more feared by the Americans, Europe and the Persian Gulf princely families than was the threat of his chemical and anthrax weapons.

It is not a question of Shi'ites or Sunnis as Mr. Cheysson so shamelessly suggests but the more fundamental issue of people being politically empowered to decide their own futures. The consequences of that in Iraq would mean the toppling of the Ba'th Party and hoepfully the emergence of an equitable pluralism. This cannot be countenanced simply because the contagion would spread south and then all the Americans imagine they have accomplished in the region would be jeopardized by the same democratic principles of governance they themselves stake credit for having introduced to the world.

As the Kurds continue to surge into Iran and gather at Turkey's border, the world should know that Saddam is not the only criminal involved in the plight of the fleeing Iraqis. The author of "Desert Storm" is also deeply implicated.

Over 450,000 Refugees Short of Food, Medicine

LD1804212191 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1600 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] The governor of Paveh says 4,000 more Iraqi refugees have entered Iran through the Nowsud border region during the past 24 hours. He added: More than 200,000 Iraqi refugees have so far been settled in five camps in Paveh region.

Meanwhile, an IRNA report says that more than 450,000 Iraqi refugees are still facing shortages of foodstuff and

medicine, despite all the aid despatched to them so far. The report added that medical facilities are not currently enough to respond to the needs of hundreds of thousands of refugees.

100,000 Settled in Orumiyeh Camps

LD1804143291 Tehran IRNA in English 1142 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azerbaijan Prov., April 18, IRNA—More than 100,000 Iraqi refugees have been settled in the camps here, Governor of Orumiyeh Asadollah Lotfata said here today.

Of the said number, he said, 70,000 have been lodged in Ziveh township and villages of the Silvana region, and the rest in the newly-set up Dokana Nasr camp. He said hospitals and mobile clinics have been established near the camps and inside Ziveh, and that the camps were provided with electricity as of today.

Meanwhile, governor of the border town of Piranshahr said so far more than 300,000 refugees have entered Iran via Piranshahr border region, and that relief aid particularly tents and blankets were urgently needed.

He said half of the refugees have so far been transferred to other areas of the province, however, streets, public places, private houses and the suburbs of the town are still crowded by the refugees.

Despite the provision of the medical services to the refugees, 100 of them have so far died in Piranshahr, said the governor, adding that tens of refugees die of starvation, terribly cold weather and weakness on the other side of the borders each day.

Paper Views Turkey's Materialistic Attitude

NC1804205891 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 13 Apr 91 p 15

[Political commentary: "Turkey's Dealings With Regard to the Refugees"]

[Excerpts] The tragedy of the homeless millions of oppressed people from their homeland, which has been correctly termed by some as the "disaster of the century," proved to be important in testing the veracity of claims by many countries involved in this event. In a heart-rending tragedy, millions of Iraqi citizens fled toward the borders of the two neighboring countries, Iran and Turkey, due to the tyranny and cruelty of that country's brutal regime. According to current statistics, more than three times the number of refugees who have been permitted to enter Turkey have entered the Islamic Republic of Iran. This trend continues unabated.

Regardless of the fact that the depressing fate of the Iraqi refugees in itself exposes the antihuman nature of the Baghdad regime before our eyes, it also removes the veil from the true visage of other countries involved in this event as well. [passage omitted]

The imposition of restrictions on the number of Iraqi refugees to be accepted, the setting of conditions on which the refugees are to be accepted in lieu of receiving international aid, and absolute exhaustion in attending to the pitiful plight of the Iraqi refugees has been the hallmark of Ankara's attitude to the calamity which has befallen its neighboring nation.

Not only did Islamic Iran extend a warm hand as soon as the tidal wave of Iraqi refugees arrived at its western borders, it also spared no efforts to save the droves of those who got left behind on the way. On the other hand, Turkey imposed stringent restrictions on the number of Iraqi refugees to be allowed in the country from the outset.

In the past few days, Ankara officials have been warning international circles that if assistance stops they will not bear the responsibility for the Iraqi refugees' fate. Meanwhile, the Turks have not made the slightest effort to provide adequate shelter for those who have been accepted. Those refugees are living in very difficult conditions.

Unfortunately, it may be said that, as with all other issues, Ankara has once again donned its commercial side with regard to viewing the human issue of the Iraqi refugees, instead of considering it a humanitarian and moral obligation. [passage omitted]

The humanitarian efforts of the Iranian nation and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for providing succor to the Iraqi refugees is a clear manifestation of the ideological bases of the Muslim nation of Iran in comparison with the materialistic principles of the countries which, are ready to sacrifice the loftiest values for their own low mentality.

Deputy Foreign Minister Interviewed

NC1804165491 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Apr 91 pp 1, 11

[By M. Firuzi]

[Text] Tehran—A senior official of the Foreign Ministry yesterday denounced the U.S. move against the Palestine issue and said that Washington "wants to take advantage from the present situation in the region."

In an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES, Deputy Foreign Minister in Charge of Arab and African Affairs Hoseyn Sheykholeslam commenting on the recent visit of Secretary of State James Baker said the intention of the Americans is not sincere.

Elaborating on his point he said that after the Persian Gulf there were very many differences among Muslim Arab countries and the situation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) does not allow the parties to take specific action towards the solution of the Palestinian problem. "And moreover," he said, "those who

are involved in the Intifada will never allow any compromise with the Zionist regime."

Sheykholeslam said, "Taking advantage of the present situation, the U.S. wants to solve this vital Islamic problem through a regional conference rather than through an international one."

He said such a conference will accomplish nothing but amount to another Camp David agreement which was not acceptable to Muslim Ummah.

Sheykholeslam lauded the role of the Intifada movement saying that this movement was started and is being pursued by a nation and not by refugees. He said that so far no plots of oppressor nations such as the migration of Jewish communities to occupied lands could soften the stand of the freedom fighters in the occupied lands.

Referring to the Algerian media stand against the Islamic Republic of Iran, Sheykholeslam said that the government in Algiers should take note that the Iranian government has the impression that certain foreign powers have their hand in this issue.

On Iran-Egyptian relations, the deputy foreign minister said that the Cairo government expressed its desire to resume ties with Tehran and "currently we are reviewing the situation and a reply to Egypt's request will be given."

He said that the hostage issue in Lebanon can be solved if specific steps are taken after putting pressure on Israel.

Sheykholeslam said, "Iran was, is and will be ready to give a hand in solving this problem on purely humanitarian grounds."

Sheykholeslam said, "The problem lies with the Western governents and Israel and if specific steps are taken by these countries this issue can be solved within the shortest period of time."

"The West should note that the fate of the hostages is not in the hands of Iran but we can provide some assistance in getting them released through the spiritual influence we have on certain groups in Lebanon," the deputy minister said.

"We should note that the captors of the hostages are correct when they demand that the Muslims taken hostage by Israel should be freed first," Sheykholeslam said, adding that the demand of the Israeli regime that its prisoners who are in the hands of Muslim groups in Lebanon should be freed first is wrong.

"There is a difference between the demands of the two parties and we should do justice," he said, referring to the 1982 Israeli aggression on Lebanon during which that Zionist regime captured more or less one thousand Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims who were than taken hostage in the occupied lands.

"In another case," he said, "there are Israeli prisoners who are in the hands of Lebanese Muslim groups."

"Now the difference is that the Israeli raided Lebanon and its army personnel were captured by the Lebanese Muslims," he said, and asked, "How can you put both groups in these two different cases equal to each other?"

The case of Muslim hostages and Israeli prisoners cannot be equal through any legal system or on any international law as the former were taken hostages whereas the latter were aggressors.

"But," he said "through political and prictical means, the issue can be solved."

Ahmad Khomeyni Addresses Army Leaders

LD1804182391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Excerpts] This afternoon, on the occasion of 18 April, Islamic Republic of Iran Army Day, the commanders of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army, together with a large number of the force's personnel, met Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, at the immaculate shrine of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise. [passage omitted]

In remarks at that meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni stressed the need for more efforts aimed at strengthening the Islamic Republic of Iran Army in all dimensions. He said if Iran is to attain the summit of cultural pride, there is no way other than to depend on knowledge and the clergy. Referring to the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran Army must be rich in military equipment and hardware, he said that the military experts should together with other Army personnel demonstrate greater efforts in making the Army self-sufficient. That way we could be witnessing the self-sufficiency of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

*Law Enforcement Commanders Designated

91AS0812a London KEYHAN in Persian 11 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] Following the consolidation of the police, the Gendarmerie and the Islamic revolutionary committees and the formation of a single force called the Islamic Republic of Iran Law Enforcement Forces, Brigadier General Sohrabi, commander of this force, who was commander of the Gendarmerie before the merging, introduced the commanders of each of the nation's districts. This list was approved by the minister of the interior, who is also the deputy of the commander in chief (the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran) in the Law Enforcement Forces.

The commanders of the nation's provinces were introduced as follows:

1. Second Brig. Gen. Mohammad 'Ali Aslanzadeh—West Azerbaijan
2. 'Ali Shafi'i—"Pasdar" of Yazd
3. Second Brig. Gen. eral 'Ali Imanparvar—East Azerbaijan
4. Esma'il Fath'alipur—"Pasdar" of Zanjan
5. Second Brig. Gen. Mohammad Sane'i—Kordestan
6. Bahram Nowruzi— "Pasdar" of Ilam
7. Colonel Mohammad Hasan Ahmadi—Lorestan
8. Col. Mohammad 'Ali Keshvadi—Hamadan
9. Second Brig. Gen. 'Ali Asghar Haddadi—Khuzestan
10. Col. Hoseyn Mahmudi Maymand - Bushehr
11. Morteza Najafi—"Pasdar" of Esfahan
12. Col. 'Ali Aryafar—Kermanshahan
13. Col. 'Aliqoli Fudazi—Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari
14. Second Brig. Gen. Naser Qoli Reza'i-Niya—Kerman
15. Second Brig. Gen. Jamshidi Tahmasbi—Fars
16. Second Brig. Gen. Ahmad Rismanchiyan—Khorasan
17. Second Brig. Gen. Siyamak Alahyari—Mazandaran
18. 'Ali Mohammad Khamseh'i, "Pasdar" of Gilan
19. Vajhollah Aqa Taqi—"Pasdar" of Sistan va Baluchestan
20. Yusef Reza Abol-Fathi—"Pasdar" of Semnan
21. Col. Reza 'Adl—Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad
22. Ehtesham Rahimi-Darabad—Hormozgan
23. Second Brig. Gen. Reza 'Aliyari—Tehran
24. 'Abdollah 'Oqba'i—"Pasdar" of Greater Tehran
25. Second Brig. Gen. Mohammad Fajrzadeh—Arak

In this way eight Pasdars and 17 officers from the police and the Gendarmerie were appointed as commanders of Iran's 25 law enforcement districts.

The building on Sevvom Esfand Street in Tehran, which heretofore has been used as the national police headquarters, is to be converted to the central office for law enforcement forces, and in this way all the police stations, committees, and gendarmerie stations will come to be called law enforcement forces stations.

The Majles building at Baharestan Square, which had been occupied by the central Islamic Revolutionary Committee, will be evacuated.

AFP Reports Assassination of Cleric

NC1404125391 Paris AFP in English 1235 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 14 (AFP)—Unknown assailants gunned down an Iranian cleric and his chauffeur, the Islamic Republic daily reported Sunday.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Sheykh Hoseyn Rafi [name as received] and his driver, who was not named, were assassinated Saturday near Lamard in the south of Fars Province by "unknown (assailants) using a firearm", the daily said.

Lamard's Friday prayer leader, Seyyed 'Ali Asghan Shaydi urged police and judicial authorities to "arrest those responsible for the attack and eliminate banditism in the region".

*Fighting with Officials Reported in Esfahan

91AS0812b London KEYHAN in Persian 11 Apr 91 pp 1, 8

[Text] Unlike Tehran, where the people held their outdoor celebrations for the end of the New Year season throughout the city peacefully and without incident, that same night Esfahan was the scene of widespread clashes between the people and committee officials who sought to prevent the outdoor celebrations and the building of bonfires in the streets and alleys.

A reliable report which was sent to KEYHAN from Esfahan and reached us this week states that most of the conflicts between the people of Esfahan and committee officials took place on Mardavij street. To disperse the people, the committee officials brought fire-fighting trucks to the square, but after the people resisted and hundreds of people threw rocks at them, the fire-fighting trucks were forced to leave the area and the committee officials fled behind them.

According to this report, three or four days before the beginning of the New Year holidays, committee, revolutionary guard and security patrols stopped youths who were playing with firecrackers in the streets to welcome the new year. They searched their pockets and if they found firecrackers and implements for playing with fire, they beat them and took them to the committee. Despite all these harsh measures, however, after the hour of 1600 Tuesday (the night before the Wednesday feast) [the last Wednesday of the solar year] thousands of Esfahani youths built fires in various parts of the city and tens of thousands of people throughout the city went on foot and in vehicles to join the youths celebrating the Wednesday feast. According to the report received, written by an eye witness, after the unprecedented increase in the size of the crowd celebrating the Wednesday feast bonfire, committee officials went to the gathering places to disperse the people and then there were clashes between them and the people. The people attacked them throwing firecrackers, explosives and stones.

On Mardavij street, where the harshest clash between the people and the committee members took place, while thousands of youths and children were playing with firecrackers and lighting fires, committee members, with the protection of fire-fighting trucks spraying water on the fires and the people to disperse them, came onto the scene, but after several minutes the fire-fighting trucks were forced to withdraw and leave the area because of the hail of stones from the people. The committee officials also left. A half an hour later, however, they came back with more people and equipment and started shooting into the air. Instead of being frightened by the shots fired into the air however, the people surrounded the committee officials and began booing them and throwing firecrackers at their feet. Shortly thereafter they began throwing rocks at the committee vehicles. The committee officials, who were quite small in number compared to the size of the crowd and did not have orders to fire on the people, fled Mardavij street in

disarray after the windows of their vehicles were broken, with the people running after their vehicles and booing them.

After the flight of the committee officials, the people remained until midnight at the fires. When they returned to their homes they moved through the streets in groups, and those who went home in automobiles expressed their joy by blowing their horns.

"In the letter we received was written:

The people laughed loudly in the streets. They danced and stamped their feet in many places, and wherever officials arrested anyone attacks and protests by the people to save them from the hands of the committee officials were fun to watch."

RESALAT Report on 24 Feb Majles session

PM2503070091 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Feb 91 pp 5, 11

[Excerpts] Report from yesterday's open session of the Majles:

Legal and Parliamentary section—The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning, chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan.

During this session the plan to change the price of gasoline was discussed but was not passed and was rejected.

During yesterday's open session a letter from Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani was read out, introducing Dr. Reza Malek-Zadeh in order for him to receive a vote of confidence in order to take up position as minister of health and health education.

We publish below the pre-agenda speeches, comments made by Dr. Hashemiyan, and the full discussions of the Majles.

Abolfazl Hasan-Beygi

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Abolfazl Hasan-Beygi from Damghan.

He commented on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Mahallati, martyr Hasan Shah-Cheraghi, and their companions in the tragedy of the passenger airliner of the Islamic Republic of Iran that was shot down. He remarked on their past services and their revolutionary record and praised them. [passage omitted]

The people's deputy from Damghan thanked the president and the members of the supreme national security council for adopting a policy of neutrality and stressed that anything other than a decision to remain neutral would have been surprising, because today Islamic Iran is the focal point for all the world's Muslims. [passage omitted on gulf war and its outcome]

Mr. Hasan-Beygi, on behalf of the people and the clergy of Damghan, thanked the president for providing hard currency and necessary funds to supply drinking water to Damghan.

The people's deputy from Damghan also thanked executive officials for doing all they can to solve the problems of his constituency.

'Ali Asghar Mortazavi-Far, People's Deputy From Lanjan

'Ali Asghar Mortazava-Far, people's deputy from Lanjan, was the second pre-agenda speaker who spoke about the Persian Gulf war in his speech, saying:

The crisis in the Persian Gulf is proof of the heavy blow that the Islamic revolution in Iran has dealt to existing relations in the world. [passage omitted]

The Islamic revolution in Iran led by a great man, Khomeyni—peace be unto him and his family—has so aroused the world's Muslim masses as to cause much panic among the corrupt, especially the Great Satan, the world-engulfing United States. At one time, using economic and political pressure, they engaged in colonializing the oppressed peoples of the world. But today they have lost one of their most potent pressure points, which was political control over the world. This is why we see the allies, led by the Americans, showing their ugliest face and committing the worse crimes and murders in Iraq, committing unprecedented cruelty. Death and disgrace to the United States!

He continued: We need to obey the great leader more than ever. Safeguarding and keeping our power of political pressure and Islamic ideology requires unity, obedience to the leader, and the safeguarding of the rights of the oppressed. [Koranic verse omitted] The countries of the world have become more aware than before. To guide this awareness is the task of our dear leader, Ayatollah Khamene'i.

To fail to obey the leader means creating gaps in the power to guide this awareness, which is the fruit of the labors of the imam of ummah—may his passage to paradise be expedited—as well as all freedom-loving peoples, especially Shiites, throughout history, martyrs, disabled, wounded MIA's and POW's, and is a result of the cries, tears, wailing, and distress of their fathers, mothers, sisters, wives, and other orphans. [passage omitted asserting need to be vigilant]

He continued: It is obvious that the respected Council of Guardians has had more responsibility than others in this great movement. With its efforts, it can safeguard the unity of the Islamic ummah more than before so that all can use the bitter experiences of the past in the interest of the innocent people. Reference to the statements of the imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—will solve all our problems. He once said that in an Islamic regime the door should always be open to religious teachings, that the nature of the revolution

dictates that religious ideas on various subjects—even opposing views—should be expressed freely. Nobody has the right to prevent this. But the most important factor is true recognition of society so that, based on this understanding, the Islamic regime can make plans in the interest of Muslims. At this point unity in word and action is vital. And it is here and now that we must say that the conventional teachings of the theological centers alone are not enough to run the affairs of the world's Muslims. It is hoped that by activating the theological centers we will be able to find proper solutions to economic and political problems faced by Muslims worldwide that would meet the needs of today so that beloved Islam can be glorious. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the dear beloved of the Iranian people, his working government and dear ministers, just as they have so far made an effort to resolve the executive problems of the country, should pay more attention to the oppressed classes, especially teachers and janitors at the education department. They should go through the Majles and implement the law to increase their pay as soon as possible.

Mortazavi-Far added: I would like to ask the respected government to control the price of essential items needed by our beloved people. By issuing strict orders to look into the situation of the respected families of the martyrs, our beloved disabled, and the glorious POW's, they should solve their problems with regard to marriage and providing housing for these dear ones so they they will not feel alone.

In another part of his speech the speaker thanked the Majles, the Council of Guardians, and the Cabinet for their decision to change the classification of Mobarakeh from a village to a town.

The people's deputy from Lanjan said: The huge volume of national investment, which entails the establishment of many small and large industries in the region, should not bring any special problems to the respected people of the area. The establishment of 100 industrial units, especially large ones—such as the steel works at Mobarak, Pol-e Khalil, the Haft-e Tir complex, the Sepahan cement factory, the military defense industries' complex, steel works and so forth—are attractions and as a result mean large movements of people. The town of Lanjan now has a population of more than 350,000, which will cause problems for society in the region. The respected ministers of defense and industry should advise the local industrial managers to help solve the problems caused by the huge influx of population to the region in terms of meeting their needs and shortages which are all the negative results of the local factories.

In conclusion, he advised the appropriate authorities on solving the problems in his constituency.

Ha'eri-Zadeh, People's Deputy From Birjand

The last pre-agenda speaker was Abolhasan Ha'eri-Zadeh, the people's deputy from Birjand. At the start of his comments he talked about the land offensive of the allies led by the United States against Iraq and said: This showed that the United States, in addition to its professed aims, has other extensive aims which were revealed more clearly and distinctly. Undoubtedly, if this continues the Islamic Republic of Iran will not be safe. The appropriate officials must issue a severe warning to the Security Council, in earnest, as before. This movement of the United States will no doubt be followed by an invasion of Iraq. This violates all international laws. All the Islamic countries' forces will certainly be in the front line of this land offensive. Anyone killed on either side will be Muslim and the United States will in any case keep its forces behind the battle lines.

He stressed; Saddam must evacuate Kuwait. But the issue of the aggression of the Iraqi Government against Kuwait is different from the issue of the Muslim people of Iraq. Under no circumstances must the Muslim peoples allow the killing of the Islamic ummah to continue. I have a serious warning for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to lodge a formal and major complaint against the United States and to work on this. This is not contradicting neutrality but rather [words illegible].

Ha'eri-Zadeh mentioned the fact that a general mobilization of the oppressed and the people is now the most vital issue in the country. He added: This will only be possible through a swift movement and plans for a march to Qom.

He stressed: For practical struggle against world aggression of the East and West our economic links must first of all become Islamic as quickly as possible. Until we have understood the verses of the holy Koran, speeches, sermons and verses will be ineffective. Until we have made effective moves to restore the rights of the poor and oppressed from the wealthy, talks, sermons, and pre-agenda speeches will have little effect. The struggle against aggression will not take on a practical aspect and will not lay the groundwork for the just rule of the hidden imam—may God expedite his return. As long as we read the verses ot the book of God only at the graveside and until we have implemented a system of monetary fines to shift wealth from the filthy rich, the struggle against cruelty, aggression, the United States, and others will remain a mere slogan.

There is no point in dressing my wounds while my stomach is still bleeding. [proverb]

The horrific class difference that exists between the affluent who feel no discomfort and the poor of society is distressing and dangerous. The lower income classes on fixed wages, the small merchants on low incomes, workers, and farmers on low incomes with no capital have broken their backs under the heavy burden of inflation and high prices. Where are the promises taken from the Koran? We must implement the economic system of the Koran. All programs, decisions, charters, directives, and so forth must ensure that it is not up to

the wealthy to distribute wealth. The economic power must not be in the hands of the rich, which is where it is now.

He added: It is capital which has not lost its value today and it is gaining more power each day. The majority of the people in society cannot manage to run their lives just by working. The wrong impressions that have been brought about, security for investment for the rich and economic security for the wealthy to invest their money, have only resulted in looting the rights of the oppressed. That merchant in the bazaar, for a lifetime showed no mercy to his deputy and his secretary who kept his innermost secrets safe. Now, if he has a daughter in his house that he cannot find a husband for, he will give her to the deputy or his secretary so that in his old age they will look after his wealth. He sometimes sends his daughters to the homes of husbands for financial reasons so he is not about to think about the poor people. He is not about to invest in industry or mines or agriculture to create jobs for the poor. That merchant, engineer factory owner, major landowner or major farmer, all use the capital of the banks, which belongs to the people in general, in delicate ways.

He criticized the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic for their coverage of the trip made to Pakistan by the speaker of the Majles. He said: Unfortunately our Voice and Vision, which is government-run and must be the voice and vision of the Islamic Republic, acted very weakly and badly in that connection. Their coverage cannot be compared to past coverage given to former speakers of the Majles. To weaken and to show in poor light the Majles, the legislative arms of the regime, which is a major pillar of the regime, is to deliver a blow against the revolution. There must be Islamic thinkers who are knowledgeable at the top leadership of the Voice and Vision.

Comments Made by the Deputy Speaker of the Majles

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan, deputy speaker of the Majles gave a speech at yesterday's open session of the Majles commenting on the military hostilities between Iraq and the United States and said: The destructive war in the Persian Gulf has dragged our brothers and sisters through mud and blood and has destroyed the economic resources of the Islamic nations in the region. This happens while the expenses of the war will be paid by the puppet governments. Now Western companies have signed contracts for re-construction and looting so that this way they can further steal the wealth of the Islamic countries and the peoples of the region.

He added: This war was led and created by the United States and on the other hand, the regime in Iraq. It is really amazing how Europe is the plaything of the United States. Commenting on Iraq's readiness to pull out of Kuwait, the deputy speaker of the Majles said: The United States always said that if Iraq did this, we will end the war. Therefore, according to international rules, first there must be a cease-fire, then there must be withdrawal from Kuwait. Then why is it that the United States is now acting against its own statements and is continuing the war?

He added: The Americans have evil intentions which go beyond the liberation of Kuwait. The liberation of Kuwait is an excuse for the United States. It is thinking of ways to establish its hellish control over the region and is taking steps toward this evil goal.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan said: It is amazing that the Security Council has become a plaything in the hands of the superpowers. Despite the fact that the UN Secretary General has announced that the United States has gone beyond the UN Security Council resolutions at the same time that Iraq announced its readiness to withdraw, why does the Security Council not hold a session to issue another resolution?

This Security Council which has shouted so much, is this its independence? Does the Security Council not know that it is a useless tool in the hands of the United States' whims?

He added: If the Americans think that with a bunch of puppet governments in the region they can create an island of stability for themselves, they are badly mistaken.

The United States should know that in the eyes of the masses it is the most hated of regimes. This is because it is the United States that has risen against Islam in the world, and British colonialism is along its side. This is why the Islamic nations will never forget the U.S. crimes against Islam and the Muslim peoples of the world. All this killing and destruction will mix with the ideals of the Muslims and they will take their revenge on the United States for this crime against Islam.

He added: The Muslim peoples will never forget the shedding of the blood of their innocent Iraqi brothers and sisters. The Islamic nations and the heroic youth of Islamic countries will never forget the cruelty against the Palestinian people. They will take revenge and they will turn the region into a graveyard for the Americans.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan stressed: Just as our peace-loving government is making an effort in the region to establish peace, we tell the United States that the killing of Iraq's Muslims and the continuation of the war is unbearable.

He added: The Islamic nations and the innocent Islamic peoples will take revenge for dear Islam on the United States.

Text of the Discussions

The only item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Majles was discussion on a plan to "designate a price for gasoline" which was approved as an urgent item in an open session of the Majles on 20 February 1991.

In this connection, one of the deputies who had signed the proposal gave a speech during which he said: In terms of the timing of the decision of the economic council to remove the rationing coupons for gasoline and to change the price of gasoline, it was announced and executed at an inappropriate time. If there was to be an increase it would have better if it was done in the 1991 budget. By the way, this decision of the economic council contradicts a directive from the president which specified that there would be no increase in the prices of services.

He added: The other point is the inflationary effect of this decision because this product is used by everyone and its effect on the economy is undeniable. Why is it that last year when there was talk of increasing the price of gasoline from 30 rials to 40 rials it was said that this would cause inflation, but now an increase to 50 rials will not cause inflations?!

There are some who say that the price of gasoline dropped from 60 rials to 50 rials but this is not the case because the starting price was 30 rials. If rationing coupons were to continue the price would have gone from 60 to 50 rials but now that the rationing coupons have been removed the base price should be 30 rials. He added: The other issues is comparing the price of gasoline in other countries with Iran. This comparison is completely wrong. Our country is floating on an ocean of oil. What difference does it make to us that the price of gasoline in France is so many francs?

There are some who say that the coupon system created corruption. If this is the case, then it is the case in all the other sectors as well. If your claim is correct, then let us remove rationing coupons from all sectors. How would you cope with the psychological effect of the price rise? Removing the coupons and the limitations that they presented—in whose interest were they and who did they harm? Did they harm the capitalists with their Mercedes Benz or the civil servant who is one of the poorest people?

Then Hoseyn Harati, deputy from Sabzevar, spoke as the first person against this plan, saying: The change in the price of gasoline and the elimination of rationing coupons for it was one of the legal and logical decisions made by the economic council. The decision that the government made was within the parameters of the Five-Year Plan. In no way has there been a move against the plan. In the Five-Year Plan, in the section dealing wiht the budget and the government's financial situation, the last clause says that the government can reconsider the price of services in order to increase its programs.

The reason for this decision is that the use of coupons is necessary when there is more demand than supply. When demand matches supply, there is no need for coupons. Removing the coupons has two advantages. One is that it will decrease the administrative costs and the other is that it will get rid of the fraud and the abuse that took place.

According to official figures from ministries, keeping in mind the amount of gasoline distributed through coupons as well as that distributed freely, each liter of this product cost the consumer on average more than 48 rials, which with the recent changes, has gone up by less than two rials. This is why it will not create inflation.

He continued: One of the main causes of pollution in cities is the cars that burn gasoline. The main reason for the bad traffic in Tehran is also the cars that burn gasoline. These are the unpleasant effects of lower gasoline prices. On the other hand, with a decrease in the price of gasoline, there is more consumption and if there is more consumption perhaps the government will not be able to match demand with supply and this will in turn cause new problems for the Ministry of Oil.

Then Abolhasan Ha'eri-Zadeh, deputy from Birjand, spoke as the first person in favor of the plan saying: As representatives of the people we have a duty to prevent any increase in prices, unless the increase in price benefits the people and society as a whole.

He continued: I believe that the effects of the increase in the price of gasoline should be studied. Pricing is not up to us but is up to the government. But when the government increases the price of gasoline illogically, without giving adequate explanations to the legislative power and the people's deputies, this is the logical reaction of the Majles in the face of that government action. The government does not inform the Majles of its policies and movements beforehand and does not in practice include the Majles in the execution of its programs.

The second deputy against the plan was Davudi-Shamsi from Ardakan, who said: If the price of gasoline is fixed at 40 rials, the government will be faced with an income deficit which has to be made up in other areas.

He stressed: Fixing a price by the Majles, as an urgent plan, is a great mistake. The Majles should not show sensitivity only for the price of gasoline but also for the price of everythng else.

Arsalan Safa'i, deputy from Bakhtaran, was the second person to speak in favor of the proposal to "change the price of gasoline". He said: The income raised as a result of gasoline going up from 30 to 50 rials is not legal.

Concerning the inflationary effects of the increase in the price of gasoline he said: The issues that affect society are sensitive and delicate. There must be plans and one must act in a logical manner because the results will affect the entire economy. It was the same case with the Tehran municipality which implemented a charge which in turn had adverse affects on the price of property and no one is now responsible.

He added: Some of the opponents of the plan say that with this increase in the price we are trying to solve the

problems. They think that they will solve the problem of traffice and air pollution with this plan.

The third deputy opposed to the plan was Haji Naseri from Zanjan. He commented on the figures and calculations of the Petroleum Ministry and said: Gasoline is not like bread which is used by all every day. If the government wants to distribute gasoline at 40 rials per liter it has to subsidize the cost by 5.5 billion rials. In addition to this, the plan goes against Article 175 of the Constitution and it is very likely that it will be rejected by the Council of Guardians. The reaction to it will be negative both at home and abroad and it will be said that there are two decisions, one coming from the government and the other from the Majles.

The third deputy in favor of the plan was Ramazdan Rohani-Nya from Sepidan, who said: Subsidies are a heavy burden on the government. Because of the consumer-oriented culture that existed before the revolution, the use of fuel in this country of 50 million people is greater than in China which has a population of over 1.5 billion.

He added: Because of the current economic situation in the country, we must not see economic problems in isolation; to be solved one by one. Economic issues have important links with social issues in every society. Increasing or decreasing the price of any item by the government should have a social purpose.

Hoseyni-Shahrudi deputy from Shahrud was the fourth person to speak in opposition to the plan. He said: Economic issues are like the mechanism of a clock in which each wheel should move in time with the others. It makes sense if all prices rise together, but it is wrong if the price of one item rises a lot and another remains stable.

He added: Sometimes we think that if something remains cheap it is best for the country. You should not look at the issue in isolation; but as a whole. Today, with the increase in the price of gasoline you and I will perhaps lose, but the country will benefit as a whole.

In conclusion he said: We use more oil products in the world because they are cheap.

Nurollah 'Abedi deputy from Bahbahan was the fourth person in favor of the plan. He stressed: This price increase will have a huge effect on society and on the country's economy.

He added: The government wanted to support producers by introducing hard currency at competitive rates. This is a correct policy, provided that the consumer's role is also taken into consideration. The government provides hard currency at a competitive rate but the services that it takes from its civil servants are paid for in hard currency sold at government rates.

We cannot say that the people should have no income and the government should increase prices.

Nurollah 'Abedi added: This pricing will also affect other sectors in the country. According to the petroleum minister, other oil products will also go up in price and these rises will cause a rise in other prices.

He said: The people want relative confort in their country. If the government gives subsidies to production, this issue will resolve itself. It is very dangerous for us to come and increase prices without increasing incomes and the government should pay serious attention to this.

'Ali Movahedi-Savoji, deputy from Saveh, was the fifth person to speak in opposition to the plan. He said: Fixing prices has nothing to do with the Majles. This is why this plan amounts to the legislative power interfering in the affairs of the executive power and is not in the interest of the country.

The government loses a lot of money in producing and selling oil products. It is not right for the government to subsidize gasoline which is used by a small minority.

He added: The price of gasoline on the open market has gone up. On the open market it was 60 rials and is now 50 rials [as published].

He continued: Rationing gasoline brought with it a lot of problems, such as fake coupons and other abuses. There were civil servants who got money in return for coupons and so forth. Where in the world do you have gasoline at this price? Even in producing and exporting countries you do not have gasoline at this price and the reason why our gasoline consumption is so high is because it is cheap.

Mohammad Qomi, deputy from Varamin, was the fifth person to speak in favor of the proposal. He said: Abolishing the coupon system for gasoline sales is a good move. The petroleum minister said in an interview recently that we distribute 22 million liters of gasoline a day. Out of this 16 million liters are sold against coupons and the rest are available on the open market. The biggest consumer of gasoline is the government itself and by increasing the price of gasoline, the government's income is not going to increase.

He said: Has the salary of government civil servants gone up in line with the increase in prices and inflation? This is certainly not the case and there has been no increase.

After him Mohammad Hoseyn Jahangiri spoke as the last deputy in favor of the plan and said: The decision of the economic council to change the price of gasoline has been reached without the Majles being notified. It had been expected that the deputies would get involved in the issue in some way to fix a fair price that would please the people so that neither the people nor the government would lose out.

He added: The people expect to benefit from this national wealth and the economy must also move in a direction that would allow the people to benefit from what is available. The present 40 rial price tag is one that

does not contradict the Five-Year Plan. It will not cause inflation. The change in price is bound to affect all the poor people in society.

Following the speaches for and against the proposal, Kamaleddin Shahriyari, deputy from Tangestan, who was one of the people who had signed the plan "to change the price of gasoline" made a speech. He said:

The government has in effect done two things. One is to abolish ration coupons and the other is to fix the price of gasoline at 50 rials. Ration coupons are used when there is no balance between supply and demand. But when gasoline was being sold at two separate prices of 30 rials and 60 rials, it did not mean that there was a shortage. It meant that to the stratum of society that we wanted to give gasoline with a government subsidy, we did and for the class that we did not, we charged 60 rials.

If we divide our society to three classes of low, middle, and high income, our country is made up of people mostly with low income. This makes the people use the coupon system. For those people who have middle or high income the role of the coupons in their lives in minimal. In reality it is the poor people who will pay for the increase in prices, since 80 percent of their goods come from the coupon system.

After the Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh made some remarks during which he said: If the price of gasoline moves from 50 rials to 40 rials the Petroleum Ministry will lose 47 billion rials in revenue and we will not be able to pursue the objectives of the ministry and the executive work of the ministry will come to a stand-still.

He said: By abolishing the coupons many of the costs and instances of corruption will disappear as well. Is this to the people's disadvantage?

Right now in the winter we use 80 million cubic meters of gas per day. Each cubic meter is equivalent to one liter of gas oil. Its cost is more than the country's income and the money that we take from the people is not even enough to pay for transportation costs.

Aqazadeh added: Is it a healthy economy that pays 24 rials for transportation costs and then sells the goods at four rials?

He continued by comparing the average consumption of oil products in India and and Nigeria with Iran and said:

Do we want to extract this national wealth and burn it in our heaters?

Given the current trends we must spend this God-given wealth inside the country. In the 1991 budget you have allocated $5 billion for the Petroleum Ministry's welfare projects. Next year I have to spend 100 billion rials while the total income from kerosene is 3 billion rials.

He added: The correct policy is for us to reduce the price of natural gas and to increase the price of other goods so that the trend will move toward using more gas.

Then Roghani-Zanjani, the head of the plan and budget organization, spoke against the plan to change the price of gasoline and said: In clause 5 of the general aims of the Five-Year Plan it has been stated that in the case of goods such as kerosene, gas, gas oil, gasoline and so forth, the general aim should be to reach the true price for the finished product and that the money generated by raising the prices of these products should be used for government investments.

He then compared the price of the finished product and the selling price of some subsidized oil products and the selling price of some oil products in other countries. He added: The cheapest country putting its energy resources on sale is our country.

Zanjani continued: The National Iranian Oil Company is the biggest investor among Iranian companies. If this decrease in price goes ahead, it will have to go to the Central Bank to borrow 570 billion rials. If that happens we will have to bring the budget back to the Majles to change some figures.

In conclusion he asked that there be a closed session of the Majles to discuss policies for economic balance with the Majles deputies.

It is noteworthy that following the speeches by the deputies for and against the proposal as well as comments by representatives of the government on the plan to "change the price of gasoline" a vote was taken and the plan was rejected.

Also at the end of the Majles session yesterday the text of the letter by the president introducing Dr Reza Malek-Zadeh to take up the post of minister of health and health education was read out in order to obtain a vote of confidence for him.

This issue has been placed on the agenda of the Majles for next week.

The Majles will hold an open session tomorrow morning.

*RESALAT Report on 6 Jan Majles Session

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[Excerpts] Legal and Majles Department—Yesterday morning the Majles met in public session chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi. During this session the request was approved for a detailed investigation of the activities of the Tehran Municipality Office. Printed below for your esteemed attention are the remarks by the pre-agenda speakers, comments by the speaker of the Majles and the measures enacted by the Majles.

Seyyed 'Abbasi-Hedayati, Feridan and Fereydunshahr Deputy

The first pre-agenda speaker at the Majles was Mr Hedayati, from the Ferdin and Fereydunshahr electoral

district. [passage omitted] Concerning changes in the administrative system, Mr. Hedayati said: Most of the attention of the government of our great brother Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani is directed at expediting reform of the administrative system, which has priority in order to correct most of society's problems. If some workers do no more than a half hour of useful work, measures must be taken, for the 60 percent inflation rate is caused by the dysfunctional situation in the administrative offices.

He said that the recent trip by the exalted leader to Ilam Province was valuable, and then he noted:

God willing, the exalted leader's recent trip will open the door for greater contact by officials with the people and in dealing with certain instances of discrimination and the problems that have caused disappointment and despair among the people. From the Majles podium, I call upon the exalted leader, God willing, to visit personally the deprived areas and the Feridan and Fereydunshahr area and to send representatives to some of the villages to deal as soon as possible with the discrimination that has caused backwardness in the system of higher education, in the cultural programs, in the agricultural and animal husbandry programs, and in the other programs that have caused greater deprivation for the people, and God willing, when these discrimination problems are dealt with as soon as possible, the people will receive what they have been hoping for for many long years, and their aspirations to eliminate deprivation will be achieved and God willing they will achieve relative welfare, which is the desire of all the people.

The Feridan deputy reminded the minister of the interior about revising rural divisions, the pertinent officials about attention to the Zayandehrud dam, the minister of health and treatment about giving attention to primary health care resources in the rural areas, and the minister of higher education about creating a center for higher education in the area.

Ms. Dastgheyb, Tehran Deputy

The second pre-agenda speaker was Ms. Dastgheyb, Tehran deputy. In her talk she offered congratulations on the birth anniversary of Her Holiness Fatimah Zahra (peace be upon her), and commemorated it. [passage omitted]

Elsewhere in her talk, Ms. Dastgheyb said: Human needs change as the economy changes, but in the view of Islam, the economy is the means, not the end. In this view, an environment favorable to creativity must be established, and there must be no place for excessive wealth and hoarding (people who have for years caused ruin, corruption and spoilage, or those who live in painless comfort). The legislative power, supported by popular vote, must defend the rights of the primary owners of the revolution, the people who have proven their loyalty to the aspirations of the revolution and the imam, meaning the Hezbollah, who, on the orders of their imam, have been present in the revolution, the war, and in meeting society's needs, and who are today being reprimanded, the indigent who are still indigent who had and have nothing to eat or feed to their children, and who are now suffering hardship and difficulty.

Continuing her remarks, the speaker added: In the Constitution, the judiciary is presented as a vital matter in guarding the rights of the people which must be built on the foundation of Islamic justice and kept away from any kind of unhealthy connections and relationships, and must not be a haven for the godless and the wealthy. On the one hand the Constitution has made it incumbent on the Muslim nation to elect competent and believing officials, to monitor their activities constantly, and to seek to participate actively in building the Islamic society. Just as the glorious Koran gives "the people" the right to vote and be involved in their individual and social fate and has given no one the right to exploit and dominate a human being, the Constitution, in view of the spirit of our great revolution, rejects any form of intellectual or social despotism or economic monopoly, seeks to undo despotic methods, put the fate of the people in their own hands, and to create favorable conditions for all individuals in society to take part in every phase of the decision-making process so that the oppressed will ultimately inherit the earth.

Ms. Dastgheyb also mentioned the excessive oppression of women during the time of Taghut [reference to the late shah] and discussed the vindication of women's rights and the government's concern for this matter. She said: The Constitution has required the government to create favorable conditions for the woman's growth and personality and for revitalizing her material and spiritual rights.

Ms. Dastgheyb discussed the comments by the president of the Republic at the Tehran Friday prayers sermons concerning temporary marriage. She said: There is no doubt that instead of vindicating the rights of women and developing their personality, the recent remarks by the respected president of the republic unleashed oppression against them. Throughout the revolution and during the war the great masses of believing and sincere women obeyed the orders of their imam for the glory of Islam and accepted the martyrdom of their children, husbands and brothers and were unsparing of their property and lives. Their unspoken complaint is that instead of advising the believing men to praise chaste and modest women, the respected president of the Republic encouraged them to make use of the women for a few hours and a few days. This matter has had very undesirable consequences, yet the spirit of Islamic law stresses modesty and chastity, especially in women. The culture of chastity in the Koran advises, "Let those who lack the wherewithal for marriage remain chaste until God gives them the means out of his grace." [Koranic verse] Why was nothing said about the wife of Imam Hoseyn (peace be upon him) after the events of Karbala' (the mother of 'Ali Asghar), who did not even sit in the shade and drink cool water after the imam and his son were killed, constantly repeating remembrances of those great ones?

Look at the lives of the great mothers who have presented clergymen, scholars,and historians such as his holiness the imam, Seyyed Reza, Seyyed Morteza, and hundreds of other prominent people to the Islamic nation. With their supreme concern, they mothered and fathered these victorious souls, and at the present time most of the esteemed spouses of martyrs, relying on faith and piety, nurture and care for the brave children and leaders of Islam. It would have been better if his excellency had acquainted the women with their real place and their genuine generosity, even those who have not learned about Islamic values or become accustomed to them. Instead of trying to please others and create false personalities in themselves, they should attend to their own inner and spiritual beauty and come to know themselves through cultural and spiritual growth. We must not create unrealistic appetites in them that will become second nature, as the West has done by encouraging women and leading them to make these unrealistic demands and undermining their honor and value. The glorious Koran's emphasis on forming families is based on marriage which brings about peace and tranquillity, friendship and blessing, a warm family center, the supervision and training of sound children and the prevention of divorce.

Continuing her remarks, the Tehran deputy added: The esteemed prophet, this leader of humanity, gave the best lesson to Muslims in the marriage of 'Ali (peace be upon him) and Fatimah (peace be upon her). He saw the damage and mischief in competition to increase the size of dowries and bride prices. If the Muslims get caught up in this calamity, general poverty, economic bankruptcy, increasing divorce, the refusal of young people to form families, the daily rise in the number of young people without spouses, the spread of crime, treason, the appearance of various kinds of fornication and the increase of various forms of illness will occur. Therefore, in that model marriage between the first and second personalities of Islam, absolute simplicity was applied to teach a practical lesson for Muslims and political leaders. Instead of proposing superficial displays and marriages costing millions, it would be better to make proposals and open the way to create desirable circumstances to lead society towards divine piety and relationships compatible with religious concepts and the need to implement social justice. Resorting to one law, which is needed in exceptional circumstances, from a group of laws without making the necessary changes to make other laws conform will have negative consequences and sometimes lead to abuses by those who are not committed to the criteria of religious law, and will lead to hedonism and multiplicity. These negative developments clearly would not arise from the spirit of wisdom and will cause errors and extremism. The inappropriate application of such laws would weaken the basis of the family, and would give rise to lack of commitment, disloyalty and psychological complexes, and this will cause problems for the people and the Islamic government, increase the high number of divorces, and substitute pessimism for peace and goodwill.

At the end of her talk, she condemned America's despicable policy in the Persian Gulf and stressed: We have no doubt that Muslims will not permit the essence and glory of Islam to be damaged, and our enemies will be taught a potent lesson. As the exalted leader said: "The Muslim nations will not permit America to create a security and defense system in the region. Struggle and confrontation with America's aggression, greed, plans and policies to get hold of the Persian Gulf is regarded as a crusade for God's sake, and anyone killed in so doing is a martyr."

Mohammad Ha'eri, Mehran and Dehloran Deputy

The third pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Mohammad Ha'eri of the Mehran, Dehloran and Darrehshahr electoral district. In his talk he praised and thanked the leader of the revolution for attending a meeting of the deprived residents of Ilam. He said: The brave people and tribes of the province of Ilam have proven at sensitive times in the revolution that they are a believing, warlike, and anti-infidel nation, and they resisted through the eight years of sacred defense while the enemy rained bombs and bullets upon them from earth and sky, and their resistance was rock-steady and courageous. [passage omitted]

Mohammad Baqer Baqeri-Nezhadiyan, Kazerun Deputy

The final pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Mohammad Baqer Baqeri-Nezhadiyan, Kazerun deputy. He began by discussing the birth anniversary of Her Holiness Zahra (peace be upon her) and expressed the hope that the followers of that holy one's school of thought will be able to bury the trite and corrupt imperialist cultures in the graveyard of history and that the oneness of the five immaculate ones will rule the fate of humanity until the day of resurrection.

Continuing, he discussed the sanctuary of students in front of the British Embassy in Tehran and condemned the unethical and inhumane actions of the British Government. He called upon the Foreign Ministry to pursue seriously the release of Mr. Kowkabi from the British prisons.

He added: The arrest of Mehrdad Kowkabi showed how much world imperialism fears our Muslim students, and England has done this shameful thing despite all that propaganda and talk about freedom. If the English spy Roger Cooper had been executed, they would not have dared to do such a thing.

He then said: I remind the Voice and Vision that they must not put the public treasury at the disposal of private individuals and groups. These days people are being used on the radio and television programs who are being accused in political affairs and who belong to a special faction, and this is unfortunate.

Mr. Mohammad Baqer Baqeri-Nezhadiyan then discussed the problems in his electoral district and called for greater speed in doing the studies and implementation of the project to build the road between Lake

Arzhan and Lake Parishan. Continuing, he said: I call upon the respected leaders of the judiciary, the Ministry of Intelligence and Security, the General Inspectorate Organization and the office of the respected Friday imams to expedite identification and punishment of the Mafia-like gang in the city of Kazerun and to submit a summary report to the exalted chief jurisconsult, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, to clarify what the people and their elected servant must do.

The Kazerun deputy also said: I ask the high-ranking officials who are aware of circumstances and committed to the government, the movement and the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult not to permit those who in the decades before and after the revolution openly and secretly opposed the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult and the spirit of God [Ruhollah Khomeyni] to attack today the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult and other sacred things, and not to allow them to continue their former ways in efforts to unseat and isolate forces and processes supporting the movement and the government.

I ask the Majles, the experts in the ministries and the organizations as soon as possible to clarify and designate from top to bottom the management relationships and government's key positions to prevent a repeat of the disaster that is now occurring in the Ministry of Education and Training and the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education.

Mr. Mohammad Baqer Baqeri-Nezhadiyan said: I ask the Plan and Budget Organization and the Majles to bring about economic and financial balance throughout the Islamic nation, first to prevent the exercise of influence by personalities and experts in the three branches of the government in planning and in the division and allocation of funds and to study the investment, services and funds to the nation's provinces, municipalities and remote areas during the past 20 years, and to compensate in the next 20 years for the deprivation in the nation's deprived areas and places so these areas will be on an equal footing and so that Islamic justice will be achieved at its roots by the government.

Discussing the presence of foreign forces in the area, he said: During the age of the divine uprising and the awakening of nations, the American, European and Israeli calf-worshipers, to guarantee the continued plundering of our resources, especially the black substance oil, have occupied the sacred lands and seek to restrain the storm of the Islamic revolution. The leaders of the divine uprising, who put the pleasure of the friend [Prophet Mohammad] above the blessings of the two worlds, are beating into oblivion the heads of these devils, world-devouring America, the bloodthirsty usurper [Israel], and the Al Sa'ud family, with a divine laser strategy. Those who wish to meet the friend are teaching them a lesson so that their successors will fear the very words plunder and invasion for centuries to come. They will take the Great Satan's equipment as booty, and in liberating Palestine and the sacred shrines, they will drive the leaders of warlike imperialism back to their black castles, and they will not relent until they end the lives of the oppressors.

Majles Speaker's Remarks

Then Mr. Karrubi, speaker of the Majles, gave a talk in which he commemorated the birth of Her Holiness Zahra (peace be upon her). He said:

Fatimah was an aggregation of perfections and virtues in knowledge, piety, teaching, training, struggle, holy crusading, steadfastness, resistance and simple living, and is a model for the women of the world. [passage omitted]

Throughout the struggles the women of our society played a very constructive and important role. They answered the call of the imam and accepted the imam's proclamations with heart and soul. During the period of suffocation and under the monarchy the women played a very valuable role in underground and secret work and in circulating statements. They were in all the trenches after the triumph of the Islamic revolution. The women of the Islamic society took part in the demonstrations, the marches, the elections, and were present at the universities, the centers of knowledge and research and were active in all affairs. At the march to purge the polytheists from the divine holy sanctuary in Mecca, again a large number of our women were martyred for despising the Zionists, for chanting "Death to America" and for obeying the imam's commands. Eternal shame on the dependent Al Sa'ud family, which martyred our Muslim women at the divine holy sanctury by the house of God. Therefore, with the triumph of the Islamic revolution in all its dimensions, our women have found their own exalted position and have fulfilled their responsibility in the best way.

Mr. Karrubi continued: The position of the ladies must be fully observed in conversations and discussions, and the position and greatness the imam and Islam have given them must be preserved. In discussions, interviews, and writings, they must take care that not the slightest damage is done to their feelings, personality and greatness.

In conclusion, Mr. Karrubi offered congratulations on the birth anniversary of Her Holiness Zahra (peace be upon her) and her worthy son (Imam Khomeyni).

Majles Ratifications

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's public Majles session was the report from the committee on councils and domestic affairs concerning the request of Mr. Shafe'i, the respected Marand deputy, regarding the activities of the Tehran mayor's office. This request was agreed to in the committee.

The committee's report was announced as follows:

1 - The assembled reports from reliable sources concern abuses in the Tehran mayor's office (during the term of the previous mayor, Mr. Karbaschi), and in this regard

the judicial branch announced that about 80 people have been indicted and are being legally prosecuted.

2 - In the first six months of Mr. Karbaschi's term as mayor of Tehran significant quantities of cash and cash assistance were taken from the people, and the reason, amount and way of spending the money are not clear. In this regard Mr. Shafe'i stated that self-help is a form of help by force, and this has made society pessimistic and caused public unhappiness. The instances that Mr. Shafe'i cited included vehicles, typewriters, and other means of transportation which have been taken.

3 - Currently, in addition to the incidents announced by the Ministry of Interior, quantities of cash and non-cash items were taken from the people as self-help, which has no legal position, but on the other hand the amount and the way these were spent and the consequences are not known.

The issue being presented here is that self-help and verdicts from the court do not exist here.

Continuing his report, the deputy chairman of the committee on councils and domestic affairs added: What the investigation shows is that people are forced to pay incidental taxes and carry out illegal self-help, which has no legal basis. Of course it is necessary to mention that inquiry and investigation are separate issues from the services which Mr. Karbaschi has rendered during his tenure of service. He has done important work to improve the city of Tehran, which is something else, and these services are taken into consideration.

At the end of the explanation of the report, he said:

The respected minister of the interior and the respected mayor of Tehran attended the meeting of the committee on councils and domestic affairs and exchanged views on the investigation and other subjects. It was decided that the Ministry of Interior would announce to the General Office of Municipalities that "no incidental taxes should be imposed in the name of 'self-help' either in the form of cash or non-cash." The mayor's office and the Ministry of Interior did this, and apparently it is being carried out in the mayor's office. It must also be noted that the incidental taxes have a legal basis when implemented by the order of exalted chief jurisprudent and the chief of the judiciary. Therefore, incidental taxes have a legal basis, but the matter of self-help and taking incidental taxes in the name of self-help for the people has no legal basis.

Concerning the request for a detailed investigation, a vote was taken and the request was approved by the deputies.

The second item on the agenda was the double-urgency motion to explain article one of the law to divide responsibilities in the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Construction Jihad.

Concerning this motion, a number of deputies sought to reduce its urgency rating by one point, and after remarks for and against the idea, the proposal to reduce it from double-urgency to single-urgency status was put to a vote and rejected.

The entire proposal was then brought to the floor. One of its signatories, Mr. Malekasa, discussed the proposal's message. He said: In rural improvement and water service, there is a problem between the Ministry of Construction Jihad, the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education, and the Housing Foundation which the Majles must solve. In discussing article one, it should be made clear that the Ministry of Construction Jihad must do the work on rural improvement and water service.

After Mr. Malekasa's remarks, deputies opposing and favoring the proposal spoke and then the Majles began studying the details. Concerning the explanation of the proposal, a suggestion was made that was approved by the deputies: "the term 'water service' means 'rural potable water'."

Another suggestion was made to the effect that "improvement also pertains to the implementation of improvement activities, and it is not contrary tothe responsibilities of the other organizations." Due to the fact that there were doubts about the vote count, a ballot vote was taken, and the chair announced that it did not receive the necessary votes and further consideration was therefore postponed to the next session. The legislation "necessity to create self-sufficient mayor's offices in the nation's qualified rural areas" with more than 86 signatories and with a single-urgency rating was put before the Majles. Its single-urgency status was not approved and it was rejected.

At this session Mr. Karrubi spoke concerning the interpellation of the minister of health, treatment and medical education. He said: As you know, the interpellation was initially announced as received and was then read at the next session. The guidelines state that the interpellation is to be given to the speaker of the Majles and will be read at the same or the next session, and there is therefore no problem with regard to the guidelines. Concerning the issues and subjects that have been raised, some people had the view that more explanation was needed and the case should be considered in detail, and that some aspects of it should be clarified in detail. We therefore ask the respected deputies who presented the interpellation to be more specific about some matters and some matters, such as the tariffs, certainly do not need this because they pertain to the entire country and in the view of those making the request were a problem area, but in some cases it may have seemed that details are needed. In view of the fact that the budget is before us and the minister has also announced that he is ready, we will discuss the interpellation this Wednesday or at the latest Sunday next week.

Then Mr. Eslami, Baft deputy (one of the signatories to the interpellation) amended some items in the interpellation as follows:

Paragraph 5: A weak approach to the fundamental proposal to expand the health care and treatment networks and to remove and transfer the nation's experienced institutional health care personnel.

Paragraph 6: Inattention by the minister and the ministry officials to the position of the legal responsibilities of the Majles deputies and sometimes inattention to deputy memos and their lawful requests.

Paragraph 9: Taking decisions at variance with established legal policies in the issuance of unlawful guidelines such as the manner of recruitment of personnel and allocation of foreign exchange and other things.

End of Paragraph 10: The removal of religious and committed manpower such as some ministry deputies and chiefs of medical science universities and regional health care organizations.

End of Paragraph 11: Deputies and managers in various university and medical curricula and companies under the mantle of the ministry.

The Majles will meet in public session tomorrow morning.

Pakistan

Government Rejects Indian Claim on Jammu-Kashmir

BK1904103291 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Apr 91 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, April 18—A section of the press of April 14, 1991 carried reports in which certain views about the Kashmir dispute have been attributed to the Indian Foreign Secretary in his interview with the KHALEEJ TIMES.

The Government of Pakistan firmly rejects the claim contained in the reported remarks of the Indian Foreign Secretary that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. The Foreign Office spokesman pointed out that the disputed status of the territory was clearly recognised in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. These resolutions which were accepted by both Pakistan and India stipulate that the question of the accession of Jammu and Kashmir is to be decided through a plebiscite under UN auspices. This position is in no way compromised by the Simla Agreement which refers to Kashmir when it talks of "the basic issues and causes of conflict which have bedeviled the relations between the two countries." "The agreement lists "a final settlement of Jammu and Kashmir" as one of the outstanding questions awaiting resolution.

The Simla Agreement obligates both Pakistan and India to hold negotiations for a final settlement of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan has repeatedly expressed its readiness to have a dialogue on this fundamental issue. Regrettably, India has time and again refused to enter into meaningful negotiations.

In all the four rounds of talks between the Foreign Secretaries, Pakistan emphasised that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute remains the core issue between India and Pakistan. It pointed out that no substantive progress in bilateral relations is possible without the settlement of this outstanding issue in accordance with the solemn commitments made by Pakistan and India to the international community and to the people of the disputed territory, who have launched a massive popular movement to secure their inherent and inalienable right to self-determinatioin.

Afghan Missile Kills 1 in Pakistani-Held Zone

BK1904004291 Hong Kong AFP in English 2334 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 18 (AFP)—A missile apparently fired from Afghanistan has landed in Landi Kotal, a tribal zone controlled by Pakistan, killing one person, local officials said Thursday. The officials gave no details on the missile, which landed Wednesday, saying only it was Soviet-built.

The Moscow-backed government in Kabul has often accused Pakistan of intervering in the affairs of Afghanistan, a charge it renewed following the capture of the Afghan city of Khowst March 31 by the mujahidin.

Bhutto: Detained MP Denied Medical Treatment

BK1304141591 Karachi DAWN in English 13 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] Karachi, April 12—Ms Benazir Bhutto, Co-chairman of PPP [Pakistan People's Party] has constituted a committee to look into the draft of Shariah [Islamic law] Bill and coordinate the party response to it.

According to a PPP Press release, the committee will comprise MNAs [members of National Assembly] Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gillani (Chairman), Chaudhry Aitzaz Ahsan, Chaudhry Altaf Hussain, Syed Zafar Ali Shah and Senator Iqbal Haider.

The members of the committee have been advised to meet the people belonging to all walks of life and sects so that their views can be taken into account.

Mr Iftikhar Gillani has been directed to convene meeting of the committee at the earliest.

HINGORA: The former Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has accused the administration of committing "contempt" of court by denying medical treatment to a PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] MPA [member of Provincial Assembly].

In a statement on Friday, she said that the court had ordered that Ali Mohammad Hingora, MPA, be provided medical treatment in hospital. But hours before his operation was to start, the police burst into the hospital and "dragged" him back to jail in clear contempt and violation of the court's orders.

She further said that the Sindh High Court had ordered that the shackles and iron rod should be removed from the feet and hands of Zahid Saeed, a PPP activist. But the police authorities have not removed the shackles and thus committed contempt of court, she said.

Ms Bhutto recalled that on Nov 25, 1990, the court had ordered that Mr Asif Ali Zardari, MNA, be provided a TV set which the jail authorities had not done as yet.

She said that "the system has totally failed to provide timely quick relief to victims of illegal arrest, torture and political kidnappings."

She said the PDA would draft legislations aimed at securing timely judicial relief for victims of state terrorism.

Kidnapping Victims Among 9 Dead in Shoot-Out

OW1104053591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0433 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Karachi, April 11 KYODO—A Swedish and a Pakistani engineer kidnapped by bandits died with seven of the bandits Wednesday in a shoot-out between pursuing police and the abductors in southern Pakistan, police said Thursday.

Two policemen were injured in the shoot-out.

The two engineers, who were working on a road-repair project, were abducted along with their Pakistani driver by bandits, locally known as "dacoits," while driving in Sakrand in central Sind Province, police said.

The dacoits released the driver to deliver a ransom demand.

Police launched a search operation and the shoot-out took place at a hideout of the bandits in a forest, police said.

The incident has raised concern in Japan for the safety of two Japanese students being held for ransom by dacoits in northern Sind Province.

The students, together with another Japanese student, were on a rafting expedition down the Indus River when they were kidnapped March 17.

The third Japanese was freed with a ransom note addressed to the Japanese Embassy in Islamabad. Negotiations for the release of the two students are still under way.

The gang is reportedly demanding a ransom of 10 million rupees, equivalent to 50,000 U.S. dollars.

Many kidnappings for ransom have taken place in Sind Province in recent years.